

THE LONDON GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

N° 202.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

Price Fourpence.
Stamped Edition, Fivepence.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—The **GALLERY** for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is Open Daily, from Ten till Five. Admission 1s. Catalogue.
GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY at the GALLERY, 5, PALL MALL EAST.
Admission in the Morning, One Shilling; in the Evening, Sixpence.

ROYAL MANCHESTER INSTITUTION.—NOTICE TO ARTISTS.—In consequence of the intended opening of the Art Treasures Exhibition at Manchester, in May next, the ANNUAL EXHIBITION of MODERN PICTURES in Oil and Water Colours, Specimens of Sculpture and Casts, and Architectural Designs for 1857, WILL BE OPENED on the 14th of May next. Works of Art must be sent so as to arrive not later than the 6th of April. Artists to whom the usual exhibition circular has been previously sent will have their pictures, &c., from London forwarded by Mr. Joseph Green, 14, Charles Street, Midland Place, if delivered to him before the 31st of March. From other places, such artists are requested to send them by the most convenient and least expensive conveyance. All works must be carriage paid from artists to whom such circular has not been addressed.

EDWD. SALOMONS, Hon. Sec.
P.S.—The Council have at their disposal a considerable reserved fund, which they are desirous of expending in the purchase of approved original pictures first exhibited at this institution.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN DRAWING, conducted by the Department of Science and Art, will be held in the month of March at the District Schools of Art at SPITALFIELDS, Cripple Street.
WESTMINSTER, Mechanics' Institute.
ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, Cowcross Street.
FINSBURY, William Street, Willington Square.
ROTHERHITHE, Deptford Road.
ST. MARTIN'S, Castle Street, Long Acre.
KENSINGTON, Gore House, Kensington Gore.
LAMBERT, Prince's Road.
HAMSTEAD, Dispensary Building.

The examinations will consist of exercises in Freehand and Model Drawing, Geometry and Perspective. They are open to youths, male or female, above 14 years of age, and Adults wherever taught and of any class of Society. Rewards of Instruments and Materials for drawing will be given to those who attain the given standard of excellence. Persons who wish to be examined must send in their names and addresses at any of the above mentioned Schools, on or before the 5th March.

NORMAN MACLEOD,
Cromwell Gardens, South Kensington,
18th February, 1857.

A COURSE OF TWELVE LECTURES on The Osteology and Paleontology, or the Framework and Fossils of the class Mammalia, by Professor Owen, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Natural History Department, British Museum, will be delivered in the Theatre of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, on Thursdays and Fridays, at 2 p.m.; commencing on the 26th February, 1857.

LADIES ARE ADMITTED.
Tickets to be had at the Museum, Jermyn Street. Fee for the course, 5s.
RODERICK I. MURCHISON, Director.

LECTURES TO WORKING MEN, being the second of these Courses for the present Session at the MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET. Six Lectures "On the Geological History of the Formation of the British Islands," by A. C. RAMSAY, Esq., F.R.S., to be commenced on THURSDAY, the 26th of February, at 8 o'clock p.m. Tickets may be obtained at the Museum by Working Men only, on Monday, the 23rd of February, at 10 o'clock, upon payment of a Registration Fee of 6d. for the whole course.
TRENHAM REEKS, Registrar.

ART UNION OF LONDON. (By Royal Charter).—Fiftyholders select for themselves from the Public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber of One Guinea will have, besides the chance of a Prize, Two Prints—"The Clemency of the Lion," by H. C. Shenton, from the historical picture by John Cross, which gained the Government premium of £300, and the "Fifer," by F. Goodall, after G. Goodall, A.R.A.
GEORGE GODWIN, Hon. Sec.
44, West Strand,
Jan. 1857.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.—The Public is respectfully informed that the Egyptian Hall is closed for the present.

In course of publication, price 5s. each, a Series of **PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS** of LIVING CELEBRITIES, by MAULL and POLYBLANK, with appropriate Biographical Notices.
The February number contains:—
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THE VALUABLE CONTENTS OF MITCHELL ABBEY, NEAR BIRMINGHAM, THE PROPERTY OF CHARLES BIRCH, Esq., WHO IS LEAVING HARBOR.

MESSRS. FOSTER are directed to SELL by AUCTION, at the Abbey, on MONDAY and TUESDAY, February 23 and 24, and at the Gallery, 54, Pall Mall, London, on FRIDAY, February 27, the important COLLECTION of ENGLISH PICTURES, including The Opening of Waterloo Bridge, the original and finished picture by J. Constable, R.A.—The High Priest, by W. Etty, R.A.—and three other works by the same master—Bewtys Church, the original picture (the Funeral), and three other examples in oil of David Cox—The Spirit of Justice (the fresco of this subject is in the Houses of Parliament), The Page, Mrs. Norton as the Muse of Poetry, and the original fresco, The Spirit of Chivalry, all by MacLise (the Government Prize of £250 Guineas was awarded to Mr. MacLise for this last, and purchased from him expressly for Mitchell Abbey). The three celebrated pictures reserved by Mr. Birch from his former Sale—The Advent of Spring, by F. Danby, R.A.—The Golden Age, and The Fleur-de-lis, by W. Etty, R.A.—Also, eleven copies made by W. Etty, during his visit to Italy, of the most celebrated works of the great masters of the Venetian school, which for freedom of touch, breadth of pencil, and brilliancy of colour, must ever claim the admiration of the best judges of Art.

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PALL MALL.—ENGLISH PICTURES AND DRAWINGS.

MESSRS. FOSTER will SELL by AUCTION, at the Gallery, 54, Pall Mall, on WEDNESDAY, March 18, precisely, the COLLECTION of ENGLISH CABINET PICTURES and DRAWINGS, the entire property of LEWIS POCOCK, Esq., formed during a series of past years, and selected with a discriminating eye and matured judgment, principally from the Royal Academy and other exhibitions, including the well-known and important picture, The Prescribed Royalist, 1681, by J. E. Millais, A.R.A.—The Parable of the Children in the Market-Place, by W. C. T. Dobson—Carle Verook Castle, by David Roberts, R.A.—The Wolf of Kent, by the elder Linzell—Scene from the Traveller's Narrative, an unpublished and unengraved Work, by E. M. Ward, R.A.—Valentine and Proteus, and Claudio and Isabella, by Holman Hunt—Galatea, by W. E. Frost, A.R.A.—The Stepping-Stones, by F. Goodall, A.R.A.—Scottish Presbyterians, by John Stirling—View in Surrey, by P. Naysmith—Anxiety, by Robert Currier—A few choice Drawings—And Examples of the following Masters:—

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GEO. GROVE, Secretary.

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His Royal Highness the DUKE of CAMBRIDGE will preside at the ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL, on WEDNESDAY, 25th April next. Executors of deceased benefactors by Will, become Life Governors, according to the amount of the bequest.

Subscriptions and Donations gratefully received by the Committee; Messrs. Spooner and Co., 27, Gracechurch Street; or POOLE, A.R.A., 119, Strand.

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EDUCATIONAL MUSEUM AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.—The following Regulations for the Guidance of Contributors to the Educational Museum, have just been issued by the Department of Science and Art.

1. The Museum will be open to the Public, on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, and on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, to Students and the Public generally, on payment of 6d. each, or a subscription of Ten Shillings a year or Five Shillings a quarter, payable in advance.
2. Contributions forwarded for exhibition will be classified and arranged by the Officers of the Museum.
3. Exhibitors will be requested to attach to their contributions descriptive labels giving the names, uses, &c.; the size and form of such label to be hereafter determined.
4. It is desirable that the usual retail price should be distinctly marked on all articles sent for Exhibition.

5. As it is the wish of the Committee on Education, and the evident intention of Exhibitors, that the Museum should at all times represent the then existing state of Educational appliances, every facility will be given for the introduction of new Inventions, Books, Diagrams, &c., relative to Education.

6. Books, and other Educational appliances out of date, or the utility of which may have been superseded, or Articles that may have become injured, may be removed or replaced at the option of the Exhibitor.
7. To prevent confusion, and the possibility of Articles being removed by persons not properly authorized by the Exhibitor, due notice in writing of the intention to remove articles must be given, and no Book or object is to be removed until it has been exhibited at least twelve months.

8. In order to protect the property of Exhibitors, no Article will be allowed to be removed from the Museum without a written authority from the Superintendent.

9. On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, the Book Room in the Museum will be open to Students and the Public for inspection and study, under such regulations as may usually found convenient in a Public Library.

10. A catalogue will from time to time be published, and kept up as much as possible with the additions to the Museum, and the withdrawals from it.

11. Exhibitors desirous of advertising in the Catalogue, send their Prospectuses, Illustrations, Price Lists, &c., to the Secretary of the Department of Science and Art, at a time, and printed in demy 8vo, so that they may be inserted in the Catalogue. The binding will be of the best quality, and exhibitors will be at any depreciation of the objects from their use by visitors.

12. All contributions forwarded to the Museum must be sent to the Secretary of the Department of Science and Art, Gardens, South Kensington, care of Richard Owen, Superintendent of the Museum.

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Nor can we look back upon his life without a feeling of profound respect for the man. It was a life consistently devoted, from its commencement to its close, to the working out of his powers, neither distracted by worldliness

nor frittered away in vanities. A man may be forgiven for a harmless egotism (the worst fault of which lay in want of sympathy with the genius of some of his more popular contemporaries) who so far surpassed them all in the firmness with which, under every species of assault, he adhered, almost alone, to both political and literary convictions, which have now become almost universal, and whose serene unostentatious life left nothing which the sternest moral judgment could condemn, or from which the malice even of literary animosity could derive a temporary triumph. The beautiful protest of his own life against the luxurious and unquiet habits of the time lends redoubled force to many of his finest didactic passages. When he complains that "plain living and high thinking are no more," it was not to acquit his conscience by condemning in others the weakness which he shared with them in act as well as thought. He was the man he would have had those to be to whom he made his appeal. Contrast him in this respect with many of our literary instructors, both past and present, especially those who censure most severely the vices of their age, and how immeasurably are they dwarfed beside him! When time has swept into oblivion all the frivolous gossip about Wordsworth which has been scattered by the light infantry of literature, who could not comprehend the man in such casual intercourse as they had with him, no figure will stand out among his contemporaries in nobler proportions or with a serner dignity than the poet of Rydal Mount.

The preparers of the present edition have, we think, judged wisely in confining the annotations to those by the poet himself. We are not pestered, as in the collective editions of most modern poets, with the criticisms of defunct reviewers, each calling upon us to look at what he conceives to be the finest passages, or the greatest failures; and as often startling us, as we are wandering with the poet through some fine bit of woodland or mountain scenery, by the heelhaws of the donkey, as charming as with the carol of the thrush or the skylark. In this the editors have acted in the spirit of the poet himself, who held in deep dislike the frivolities of literary gossip, and the clever subtleties of periodical critics. His notes, which are embodied in this edition, were written at the request of one of his friends, apparently Miss Fenwick, and were not intended for the press. They are confined for the most part to statements of the circumstances and localities in which the poems had their origin, with here and there a sketch of character, a canon of criticism, or an expression of personal feeling conveyed with the utmost brevity. Such notes are of more value the more the poet recedes into the background of the past. To the well-read man of the present day they are, perhaps, of little moment, but they will be highly prized by the student and devotee of future years, for the glimpses they afford into Wordsworth's habits of life and thought and composition, and as identifying the localities to which his poetry has given a permanent interest.

They convey one lesson of great value to our young poets, and it is this—that they shall draw their imagery from a close observation of nature, and not mistake mere dexterity of verbal combinations for poetical expression. Again and again he reminds us that this or that image was taken from actual observation, and gives the time and place

with a minuteness of detail which show how deep the impressions were, which, at an interval sometimes of half a century, seemed to have all the freshness of novelty. As a specimen of the notes of this class take the following, upon "The Lines written in Early Spring," beginning,

"I heard a thousand blended notes."

The poem was written in 1798, and the note was dictated in 1843:—

"Actually composed while I was sitting by the side of the brook which runs down from the Comb, on which stands the village of Alford, through the grounds of Alfoxden. It was a choice resort of mine. The brook fell down a sloping rock so as to make a waterfall considerable for that country, and across the pool below had fallen a tree, an ash if I rightly remember, from which rose perpendicularly boughs in search of the light intercepted by the deep shade above. The boughs bore leaves of green, that for want of sunshine had faded into almost lily white; and from the underside of this natural sylvan bridge depended long and beautiful tresses of ivy, which waved gently in the breeze that might poetically speaking be called the breath of the waterfall. This motion varied of course in proportion to the power of water in the brook."

What a perfect picture is presented here! The spot lives as clearly before the reader's eye, as if he had looked upon it in nature. There are points in the picture, such as the wan colour of the leaves, and the waving of the ivy in the stir of air caused by the waterfall, which give it a charm beyond what the most truthful of landscape painters could produce. The sketch is a study for what it withholds as well as for what it gives. It is minute without being so minute as to spoil the general effect. The mind, without an effort, fills up the minor details, just as the eye would have been unconsciously impressed by them.

Wordsworth, at a very early period, felt his vocation to portray in verse the infinite variety of natural appearances which previous writers had not observed, or at least had failed to record in verse. At the age of fourteen, when he composed his 'Evening Walk,' he had already become a close observer. He says of this poem:—

"There is not an image in it which I have not observed; and now, in my seventy-third year, I recollect the time and place where most of them were noticed. . . . I will mention an instance:—

"And fronting the bright west, yon oak entwines
Its darkening boughs and leaves in stronger lines."

This is feebly and imperfectly expressed, but I recollect distinctly the very spot where this first struck me. It was on the way between Hawkeshead and Ambleside, and gave me extreme pleasure. The moment was important in my poetical history, for I date from it my consciousness of the infinite variety of natural appearances which had been unnoticed by the poets of any age or country, so far as I was acquainted with them, and I made a resolution to supply, in some degree, the deficiency. I could not have been at that time above fourteen years of age."

There are many interesting facts stated as to the length of time some of the finest poems were on the anvil. The noble poem, 'Guilt and Sorrow,' for example, was not completed until nearly fifty years after it was begun. So also an interval of two years elapsed between the composition of the four first stanzas and the remainder of the ode—'Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood.' In this respect there are many points of resemblance between Wordsworth and his great rival as a close observer of natural phenomena, Goethe. Neither

spared time or labour to bring their verses to a perfection akin to that of the nature they painted.

We are not surprised to learn, from a brief note to the 'Laodamia,' that it cost the poet "more trouble than almost anything of equal length" he had ever written. It is not always the case, however, that great trouble produces so admirable a result, for no poem bears fewer traces of the pains of composition.

No one ever supposed that the famous sonnet, on viewing London from Westminster Bridge, was actually composed on that crazy structure, in the sense of being put into actual verse, although it was headed 'Composed upon Westminster Bridge, Sept. 3, 1802.' Still, it strikes oddly to be told, as we are now, that it was "written on the roof of a coach on my way to France." "Composed" and "written" had obviously very different meanings for Wordsworth. In this, as in many other instances, the soul of the poem sprang into life long before the poet was able to find a vesture for it.

As a specimen of the notes of a more directly personal interest, we extract that which introduces the beautiful extempore lines 'Upon the Death of James Hogg.' It seems to us highly characteristic, and, in what is said of Mrs. Hemans, it shows the kind of misrepresentation by casual observers to which Wordsworth was liable.

"These verses were written extempore, immediately after reading a notice of the Ettrick Shepherd's death, in the Newcastle paper, to the editor of which I sent a copy for publication. The persons lamented in these verses were all either of my friends or acquaintance. The Ettrick Shepherd was undoubtedly a man of original genius, but of coarse manners and low and offensive opinions. Of Coleridge and Lamb I need not speak here. Crabbe I have met in London at Mr. Rogers's, but more frequently and favourably at Mr. Hoare's upon Hampstead Heath. Every spring he used to pay that family a visit of some length, and was upon terms of intimate friendship with Mrs. Hoare, and still more with her daughter-in-law, who has a large collection of his letters addressed to herself. After the poet's decease, application was made to her to give up these letters to his biographer, that they, or at least part of them, might be given to the public. She hesitated to comply, and asked my opinion on the subject. 'By no means,' was my answer, grounded not upon any objection there might be to publishing a selection from these letters, but from an aversion I have always felt to meet idle curiosity by calling back the recently departed to become the object of trivial and familiar gossip. Crabbe obviously for the most part preferred the company of women to that of men, for this among other reasons, that he did not like to be put upon the stretch in general conversation; accordingly in miscellaneous society his talk was so much below what might have been expected from a man so deservedly celebrated, that to me it seemed trifling. It must upon other occasions have been of a different character, as I found in our rambles together on Hampstead Heath, and not so much from a readiness to communicate his knowledge of life and manners as of natural history in all its branches. His mind was inquisitive, and he seems to have taken refuge from the remembrance of the distresses he had gone through, in these studies and the employments to which they led. Moreover, such contemplations might tend profitably to counterbalance the painful truths which he had collected from his intercourse with mankind. Had I been more intimate with him, I should have ventured to touch upon his office as a minister of the gospel, and how far his heart and soul were in it so as to make him a zealous and diligent labourer: in poetry, though he wrote much as we all know, he assuredly was not so. I happened once to speak of pains as necessary to produce merit of a certain

kind which I highly valued: his observation was—'It is not worth while.' You are quite right, thought I, if the labour encroaches upon the time due to teach truth as a steward of the mysteries of God: if there be cause to fear that, write less; but, if poetry is to be produced at all, make what you do produce as good as you can. Mr. Rogers once told me that he expressed his regret to Crabbe that he wrote in his later works so much less correctly than in his earlier. 'Yes,' replied he, 'but then I had a reputation to make; now I can afford to relax.' Whether it was from a moderate estimate of his own qualifications, or from causes less creditable, his motives for writing verse and his hopes and aims were not so high as is to be desired. After being silent for more than twenty years, he again applied himself to poetry, upon the spur of applause he received from the periodical publications of the day, as he himself tells us in one of his prefaces. Is it not to be lamented that a man who was so conversant with permanent truth, and whose writings are so valuable an acquisition to our country's literature, should have required an impulse from such a quarter?—Mrs. Hemans was unfortunate as a poetess in being obliged by circumstances to write for money, and that so frequently and so much, that she was compelled to look out for subjects wherever she could find them, and to write as expeditiously as possible. As a woman, she was to a considerable degree a spoiled child of the world. She had been early in life distinguished for talent, and poems of hers were published while she was a girl. She had also been handsome in her youth, but her education had been most unfortunate. She was totally ignorant of housewifery, and could as easily have managed the spear of Minerva as her needle. It was from observing these deficiencies, that, one day while she was under my roof, I purposely directed her attention to household economy, and told her I had purchased scales which I intended to present to a young lady as a wedding present: pointed out their utility (for her especial benefit), and said that no ménage ought to be without them. Mrs. Hemans, not in the least suspecting my drift, reported this saying, in a letter to a friend at the time, as a proof of my simplicity. Let it suffice to add, there was much sympathy between us, and, if opportunity had been allowed me to see more of her, I should have loved and valued her accordingly; as it is, I remember her with true affection for her amiable qualities, and, above all, for her delicate and irreproachable conduct during her long separation from an unfeeling husband, whom she had been led to marry from the romantic notions of inexperienced youth. Upon this husband I never heard her cast the least reproach, nor did I ever hear her even name him, though she did not wholly forbear to touch upon her domestic position; but never so as that any fault could be found with her manner of adverting to it."

We are sure this edition will be very welcome, and there could be no better sign of a healthy literary taste among us, than that it should soon become as scarce as the less complete collective edition which preceded it.

A Treatise on the Law relating to Bankers and Banking. By James Grant, M.A. Butterworths.

The attempt of Mr. Grant in this work has professedly been to present the law relating to banking, stripped of its professional and technical peculiarities, in as simple a form as the nature of the materials will admit. In compiling a treatise on a particular branch of legal science, the proper limits of the question are often a matter of some deliberation. In the present instance, where statutes on the one hand, and decisions of the Courts of Law and Equity and in Bankruptcy on the other, are the main subjects, there are some cognate fields of inquiry which rise into view,

but have less powerful claims upon a writer's attention. Such are the law relating to the Bank of England, and the regulations and customs of the Stock Exchange. These Mr. Grant has, after consideration, rejected from his purview; but, by way of compensation, he presents the reader in his preface with a highly condensed historical statement of the rise of the Bank of England, and the peculiar and enlarged functions it has been successively called upon to exercise. The writer proceeds further to show that such an outline as he has here given is all that can usefully be written on the principles that regulate the relations between Threadneedle-street and the Treasury, without giving at length, and in expanded form, the words themselves of the enactments that bear upon the question. The Bank of England, according to Mr. Grant's summary, was incorporated in 1694 by charter, in consequence of an Act of Parliament, with power to purchase and hold lands, &c., and to alienate the same; but its existence was to terminate upon the performance of two conditions by the Government—one, that of giving a twelvemonth's notice of dissolution: the other, that of repaying the capital borrowed from the Bank. The statute of 1844, commonly known as the Bank Charter Act, contains similar provisions. Any vote or resolution of the House of Commons, signified under the hand of the speaker in writing, is sufficient notice to produce a dissolution. The important privilege which the Bank of England obtained, was the provision that no other bank, or any corporation, society, or constitution in the nature of a bank, should be established or allowed by Act of Parliament within the kingdom. Ten years later was passed the statute, which has subsisted to our own times, forbidding any other body politic, or any other persons in partnership exceeding six persons, to carry on banking operations. An length, in 1826, came a limitation of the monopoly, which was thenceforward confined to London and a district of sixty-five miles round it. The same Act, however, which enabled partnership firms, though exceeding six in number, to carry on business in the country, empowered the Bank of England to establish its country branches in competition with them. Ultimately, in 1844, the system of Joint-Stock Banking Companies, though exceeding six persons in number, was established in London and within sixty-five miles of it.

Such is an outline, in the briefest possible terms, of the history of the Bank, to which the annals of the forthcoming session of Parliament may possibly add another chapter. We have seen that the Queen's speech, besides suggesting the consideration of a renewal of the Bank privileges, refers also to the conditions imposed on the issue of bank notes, and to the law of Joint Stock Banks; whilst we learn upon the authority of Mr. Gladstone that the Act of 1844 was considered by Sir R. Peel himself as by no means an act of finality. Whatever he may have thought, one of the main opponents of Government now asserts that, whilst the Bank is to be kept up as the great agent of the state for the purposes of finance, its privileges are such as to require revision quite as much as renewal. The relations between that body and the state are shown to have sprung up at a period when financial ideas were immature, when public faith did not exist, and when it was almost impossible to induce a body of merchants, of whose honesty no man for a

moment doubted, to become security for the state. These are the sentiments of Mr. Gladstone, who is ingenious in pointing out defects, and grandiloquent in his outlines of measures intended to remedy them. It seems, however, to be now settled that two Committees of the House of Commons are to sit, one upon the Bank Charter Act, and the other upon the state of the law relating to Joint Stock Banks.

The portion of Mr. Grant's treatise which relates to the law of Joint Stock Banks becomes more important, as the whole question is soon to come under the review of the legislature. The summary here contained in the subject is explicit, practical, and considerable, like every part of the volume. It is, however, incomplete; but this is through no fault of the writer. The important question which has occupied so long the consideration of legal authorities, and which has attracted so much notice, owing to the wide-spread disaster attending the failure of the British Bank, was still under decision when Mr. Grant's last pages were written. The following passage contains all that was then ascertainable on the disputed question of jurisdiction between the Court of Chancery and that of Bankruptcy:—

"The winding-up acts may be applied to the settlement of the affairs of Joint-Stock Banking Companies generally; also, upon the company committing an act of bankruptcy, or upon a proceeding by a creditor and an act of bankruptcy, a *fiat* in bankruptcy may issue against such company."

But in the case of the Royal British Bank, the dispute was whether the property of the bank was to be distributed among the creditors by one officer or by the other; and the decision of the courts has been, that, inasmuch as, upon a judicial view of the proceedings that had taken place, it appeared the property was actually vested in the officers of the Court of Bankruptcy, the Court of Chancery would not interfere to disturb their possession. The decision is one on which the unfortunate depositors may congratulate themselves; for there is little doubt of the administration in bankruptcy being the less ruinous of the two modes of proceeding.

In Mr. Grant's pages a chapter is to be found upon the rights and liabilities, criminal and otherwise, of bankers, on the deposit with them of a customer's security for safe custody or other special purpose; and the case of Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Bates thereupon immediately rises to the recollection of the reader. Mr. Grant treats this as a case of great importance as well as notoriety. The legal case attempted by these celebrated defaulters was a remarkable one. In the Act of 7 and 8 Geo. IV., under which bankers are in certain circumstances of conduct rendered liable to transportation for misapplying securities—is contained a provision, that no banker shall be liable to be convicted under the Act, if he should, at any time previous to his indictment, have disclosed his offence on oath, in consequence of any compulsory proceeding of any court of law, which should have been *bond fide* instituted. The course taken by Messrs. Strahan, Paul, and Bates, in order to take advantage of this proviso, was to become bankrupts, and, after they had been arrested and imprisoned on the criminal charge, then to make a voluntary declaration in the Court of Bankruptcy as to a misappropriation of the securities; but the attempt failed; a conviction was obtained, and sentence passed.

These are two points of transitory popular interest suggested by this volume; but its contents embrace a variety of other topics which we cannot even enumerate. The relations of banker and customer; the rules and principles governing cheques or drafts; the rights, duties, and obligations of bankers; together with the laws affecting partnerships societies, public commissioners; matters relating to the public stocks, shares, bank stock and exchequer bills; and the system of accommodation by discounts,—are among the particulars not already alluded to. The treatise appears to be in no way inferior to the work of Mr. Grant on Corporations, long acknowledged as a text-book in the legal profession, and to have been prepared with a care, discrimination, and completeness, which are deserving of all praise, and must ensure its success, not only among the professional advisers of bankers, for whom it is principally intended, but among the legal profession generally, and the great money-dealing interest of the country.

Two Years Ago. [By the Rev. Charles Kingsley, F.L.S. Macmillan and Co.

SIR WALTER SCOTT was once taken ill in a country town in Scotland, and sent for the leading doctor of the place. But what was his astonishment when the farrier who used to shoe and drench his horses at Melrose was ushered in, and began to form his diagnosis *secundum artem*. Curious to know the secret of his old friend's practice on the human subject, Sir Walter asked him what medicines he used. "Oo, just twa samples," replied the quondam farrier, "calamy and landamy." Mr. Kingsley, if we rightly understand the gist of his book, has "just twa samples" with which he proposes to cure all the moral diseases of humanity, and these are—love, and hard work. Indeed the analogy is more perfect than it would at first sight appear. If "calamy" stimulates the sluggish liver and sets all the digestive organs to work, so love stimulates the sluggish affections and brings out the latent energies of the soul. If "landamy" reduces the morbidly excited organs to a healthy state of quietude, so hard work is your only remedy for morbid self-contemplation and too sensitive feelings. And after all, to stimulate what is good, and to lull to sleep what is evil, whether in the body or the soul, is the whole secret of the curative art.

To the potent effects of his "twa samples" Mr. Kingsley seems to attribute the change for the better which has taken place in the public mind since he wrote 'Yeast.' The dangers and calamities which the nation has gone through within the last few years have drawn the several orders of society into closer amity, and supplied plenty of work for those who were wasting their energies for want of an object. This principle is illustrated by the fortunes of every character in 'Two Years Ago.' Idle dilettanti, thoughtless flirts, frivolous guardsmen, wrong-headed puseyite parsons, superstitious mystics, are all set to some real work by love, and the work brings out whatever is heroic in them. In those who are already at work, love awakens the latent sentiment which was wanting to complete their characters; while they who despise work and love only themselves, are visited with the heaviest penalty which it is in the power of the novelist to inflict. And so we come back to the mediæval morality, which made sloth a deadly sin, and love the sum of

all virtues. When we send our sons out into the world we shall find ourselves addressing them as the Sieur de Lalin did his son Jaquet:—"Car sachez que peu de nobles hommes sont parvenus à la haute vertu de pousse s'ils n'ont dame ou damoiselle de qui ils soient amoureux." "So does the whirligig of time," as Mr. Kingsley says elsewhere, "bring round its revenges."

It would be almost impossible, even if it were fair, to give any anything like an accurate analysis of the story, which, though extremely interesting, is only a peg on which to hang a series of pictures of English life. Every question of social interest which has occupied the public mind for the last two years is more or less fully discussed. Spasmodic cholera and spasmodic poetry, the Australian gold-fields and the Crimean expedition, sanitary reform and popery, the high church and American slavery, are all touched upon. Indeed some people might wonder how it comes that Mr. Kingsley is able to arrive with such ease at a satisfactory conclusion on such a number of subjects, any one of which is generally supposed to be sufficient to exhaust an ordinary intellect. But we cannot be too thankful to have a novelist who can settle questions which have been puzzling statesmen and moralists, theologians, physicians, and metaphysicians since the world began.

Mr. Kingsley's forte lies in depicting character. To say this, is equivalent to saying that he has the highest qualification of a novelist, and with this he ought, in all conscience, to be content. In the present case he has been eminently successful in his hero. Tom Thurnall is not too virtuous, or rather too tame, to be interesting. Even his vices are of the strong heroic kind. He is of the English bull-dog type. He fears nothing, believes nothing, and would have loved nothing, but for an old father to whom he is tenderly attached. And this one virtue of filial affection preserves him from being a blackguard and a ruffian. He has that great, though most dangerous quality, of seeing through and despising all shams. After knocking about the world for some years, now practising as a surgeon, now filibustering in South America, he goes at length to seek his fortune at the Australian 'diggins.' Here he one day receives a letter to say that his father has become blind, lost his practice as a medical man, and is reduced to poverty. He immediately realizes his gains, and sets out for England.

The next we hear of him is in a fishing village on the coast of Devonshire. He is cast away—the sole survivor of the crew of an emigrant ship, and loses everything, even the belt containing his earnings in the mines of Ballarat. He is one of those people, however, who always fall on their legs, and by dint of his wonderful *savoir faire*, soon establishes a good practice in the village, and becomes an influential personage. The fishing population neglect his suggestions for drainage and other measures of sanitary reform, and the cholera appears. In the following picture of him at this time we recognise the portrait of many a physician of our acquaintance whom the ancient Greeks would have deified:—

"'You are a greater puzzle than ever to me, Thurnall,' said Frank. 'You are always pretending to care for nothing but your own interest, and yet here you have gone out of your way to incur odium, knowing, you say, that your cause was all but hopeless.'

"Well, I do it because I like it. It's a sort of sporting with your true doctor. He blazes away at a disease when he sees one, as he would at a bear or a lion; the very sight of it excites his organ of destructiveness. Don't you understand me? You hate sin, you know. Well, I hate disease. Moral evil is your devil, and physical evil is mine. I hate it, little or big; I hate to see a fellow sick; I hate to see a child rickety and pale; I hate to see a speck of dirt in the street; I hate to see a woman's gown torn; I hate to see her stockings down at heel; I hate to see anything wasted, manure wasted, land wasted, muscle wasted, pluck wasted, brains wasted; I hate neglect, incapacity, idleness, ignorance, and all the disease and misery which spring out of that. There's my devil; and I can't help, for the life of me, going at his throat, wherever I meet him!"

In this sketch Mr. Kingsley has surely caught and exhibited the true principle of heroism, for want of which our common heroes are such milk-and-water people. It is not by cutting off some miserable little indulgence here, or some harmless pleasure there; it is not by a system of restrictions, and pruderies, and primnesses, that any one ever becomes good and great. It is by setting a good object before him, and working for it. Then he can throw off with ease those corrupting influences which drag men with no definite aim into the mire.

Tom Thurnall is indeed a capital fellow—clever, good-natured, determined, bold. He has taken a good dose of the hard work. He only wants a little of the other of the "two samples"—love, to temper his character, with the desiderated softness. And love comes to him in the shape of a beautiful and good, but somewhat superstitious and crazy methodical schoolmistress. It is a psychological fact of daily experience, that women of acute sensibilities must either love or become religious mystics, and perhaps impostors. Grace Harvey was in danger of falling into the latter state; but a good dose of the "two samples," in the shape of attending the cholera patients and loving Tom Thurnall, saves her. She is the character in the book which would seem to most people the least natural. But those who have mingled much among the fishermen of the coast, with their wild passions, vivid imagination, grave reflection, and strong religious convictions, will hesitate before they say that Grace Harvey may not have actually lived in the flesh.

The intense love of Nature, not as she is depicted in 'Thomson's Seasons,' but as she really exists, is one of the most hopeful characteristics of literary men of the present day. While our novelists can thus describe Nature, our artists will never dare to return to the conventionalisms of the eighteenth century. The days of pseudo-classicism are gone by, we may hope, never to return:—

"For it befel in that pleasant summer time, 'When small birds sing and shaughs are green,' that Thurnall started, one bright Sunday eve, to see a sick child at an upland farm, some few miles from the town. And partly because he liked the walk, and partly because he could no other, having neither horse nor gig, he went on foot, and whistled as he went like any thrush-cock, along the pleasant vale, by flowery banks and ferny walls, by oak and ash and thorn, while Alva flashed and swirled, between green boughs below, clear coffee-brown from last night's rain. Some miles up the turnpike road he went, and then away to the right, through the ash-woods of Trebooze, up by the rill which drips from pool to pool, over the ledges of grey slate, deep-bedded in dark sedge, and broad bright burdock leaves, and tall angelica, and ell-broad rings and tufts of king, and crown, and lady-

fern, and all the semi-tropic luxuriance of the fat western soil, and steaming western woods; out into the boggy moor at the glen-head, all fragrant with the gold-tipped gale, where the turf is enamelled with the hectic marsh violet, and the pink pimpernel, and the pale yellow leaf-stars of the butterwort, and the blue bells and green threads of the ivy-leaved campanula; and upon the steep down above, and away over the broad cattle pastures; and then to pause a moment, and look far and wide over land and sea.

"It was a 'day of God.' The earth lay like one great emerald, ringed and roofed with sapphire; blue sea, blue mountain, blue sky overhead."

But we cannot pursue this graphic picture of the Devonshire landscape. We have seen, we have enjoyed it intensely a hundred times. It requires genius like that of Mr. Kingsley to interpret it worthily.

In strong contrast with Tom Thurnall is John Briggs, his early companion in the compounding department of his father's laboratory. As Thurnall's apparent selfishness, practical wisdom bordering on cunning, and low estimate of morality, really issue in acts of true heroism; so John Briggs's high-flown sentiment and poetical aspirations after the noble and the beautiful lead him into the lowest depth of baseness. He will not take the "two samples." Hard work he despises, and he is too fond of himself to be capable of real, self-denying love. Weary of the humble office of an apothecary's boy, and too ill-tempered to bear the ridicule of his stronger companion, he runs away from the pestle and mortar, and sets up in London as a literary man, having first assumed the euphonious name of Elsley Vavasour. His grand spasmic poem, entitled 'The Agony of a Soul,' proves a decided success, and its author finds himself promoted from the dingy salons of the "strong-minded women," who had been his admirers in the days of his comparative obscurity to the drawing-rooms of real women of fashion. He is a handsome fellow, and manages to steal the heart of the Lady Lucia St. Just, the younger sister of Lord Scout-bush, an Irish peer. And then ensues that miserable history which is enacted every day before our eyes among rich and poor alike. A selfish, unmanly brute gets possession of a high-minded woman, and proceeds systematically to break her heart; while she, with the heroism of her sex, clings to him, notwithstanding his ill treatment of her, through poverty, disgrace, sickness, and death.

The consummate art displayed in the portrait of Elsley Vavasour consists in this—that in his lowest degradation he exhibits some good qualities. You see clearly throughout, that if he would but take a good dose of the "two samples," he might be a very charming person. Vanity, self-consciousness, an evil temper, pride, selfishness, lead him gradually on, first to despise his wife, because she occupies herself in looking after the children, and mending his shirts instead of appreciating his poetry; then to flirt with her handsome sister; then to be jealous of an old friend, who endeavours to awaken him to a sense of the unmanliness of his conduct by a chivalrous attention to the poor neglected wife; and, finally, to opium eating, madness, and a disgraceful death. There is something startling in this picture. We feel as if we had no security that such might not be our own fate, if we gave way in the least to the meaner passions of our nature. So accurately and so deeply has the novelist sounded the depths of poor human nature.

Frank Headley, the high church curate,

who gets into hot water with his parishioners about Gregorian chants, preaches sermons which fly miles over their heads, wants to turn away the angelic schoolmistress for going to meeting, works himself to death during the cholera, and after devoting himself to perpetual celibacy, falls in love with a young lady of rank, with whose ring he makes the sign of the cross on his forehead, cutting out half-a-dozen young men of rank and fashion, is admirably drawn. But there is something so ludicrous in the whole thing, that we could not feel much interest in him. However, we now see why it is that the black coats so often eclipse the red. The very fact that a young gentleman professes to be proof against beauty at once makes it an object with the perverse charmers to captivate him. However this may be, Frank Headley, like the rest of mankind, is cured of most of his delusions by a liberal dose of the 'two samples.' Love and the cholera make a man of him.

But we must not omit our two especial favourites, Claude Mellot, the artist, and his *riante* little wife, Sabina. There they live in their little *bijou* of a house at Brompton, keeping it warm and cheerful with the pure and tranquil flame of conjugal love, which has outlasted gray hair and crows' feet. It is true their only "work" consists in aiding disconsolate lovers in their necessities. But they do this heartily and cheerfully, and, after all, it is not a bad work.

But we must not allow our admiration for Mr. Kingsley's genius to blind us to his defects. We are introduced, at an early stage of the novel, to a Miss Lavington, a beautiful quadroon, who comes out on the English stage as Signora Cordifamma. We suspect that they were at first intended to act a principal part in the story, but that the author changed his mind as he wrote on. Like the rest, it is true, they serve to point the moral. She is cured of her national frivolousness by falling in love with Stangrave; and he of his *poco-curantism* by his love for her, and his consequent determination to "work" for the emancipation of the slaves. But they do nothing to forward the action of the plot, and we never know enough of them to feel any interest in their fortunes. In short, this episode is rather an excrescence than an ornament.

This is not a "religious novel," in the sense in which the term is usually employed. It is not primarily designed as a means of advocating certain religious opinions. But at the same time we are sorry to see that the dreadful bigotry, which threatens to make friendly intercourse between persons of different religious views impossible, is here also represented; and that, not as a thing to be deprecated, but as a component element of the author's mind. Mr. Kingsley is probably annoyed with a ranters' chapel in his parish, and wishes it were at Jericho. But this hardly justifies him in painting his humble opponents in the blackest colours, as fanatics and impostors. It is amusing to observe his professional views of clerical usefulness. The proof of Frank Headley's cure by means of the "two samples" is that the ranting shops in his parish are closed. The improvement of the morals of the people would have been more satisfactory evidence.

We have now been reviling the Roman Catholics for the last three hundred years, and why cannot our novelists let them alone? That the writer of a clever novel does not believe in the superior sanctity of the unmarried

state, voluntarily adopted, proves nothing. We entirely sympathise with Mr. Kingsley's view of the subject. We cannot conceive any higher virtue than may be exercised by a husband and wife, a father and mother, nor any state more innocent than the conjugal. But after reading Mr. Kingsley's sweeping condemnation of voluntary celibacy, we thought we remembered hearing something about it read in church from the Bible; and, like Tom Thurnall, we "borrowed the book" to satisfy ourselves. We looked through the Old and New Testaments for everything that seemed to bear upon it, and we were really astounded by the mass of authority in favour of the old view. However unwilling to draw the conclusion, it really appeared to us that the doctrine in question and the Bible must stand and fall together. Now, we have a great reverence for scripture, and therefore we should really feel obliged to Mr. Kingsley if he would explain away the passages to which we have alluded, to our satisfaction, in order that our sympathies may not run counter to its authority. In the meantime, we submit that the virtue of conjugal love might have been inculcated without "running a muck" at those who, as it appears, take the words of scripture in their obvious meaning. But surely it is altogether a mistake to introduce theology into novels at all. We should not now have touched on such a subject, except to protest against the practice.

After having waded through a few of the novels of the season, it is really a relief to come upon a work of art like this. Here are no caricatures of good society. Peers and peeresses differ from ordinary mortals only in being more natural, more good-natured, more impulsive, more humble, and less "set up" than the vulgar. Mr. Kingsley dissects human nature with admirable skill; but yet we do not rise from the lesson disgusted and hopeless. No one can read 'Two Years Ago' without feeling his love of virtue strengthened, his contempt for everything mean and base confirmed, and his resolution braced for active exertion. The moral sense is not confused by the apportionment of material rewards and punishments, according to the exact merits of each—an apportionment which is never carried out in nature. Above all, the moral is worked out naturally and imperceptibly. There is no *Deus ex machina*. The general reader could not, probably, at once put his finger on the intention of the book; but we have no doubt that he would get up from the perusal of it resolved to set about his business with a will, and to be kind to his wife if he has one, at any rate, to the world in general.

The Judgement of the Flood. By John A. Heraud. A new Edition, Revised and Rearranged. Bogue.

Magnis tamen excidit ausis, is the extent of praise we can bestow on Mr. Heraud's ambitious effort. An Epopeia, or true epic poem, is an achievement accomplished only at rare intervals in the world's history, and bold is the man who aspires to emulate the lofty flight of Homer and of Milton. Failure in such an attempt is not surprising, and it would be ludicrous were it not painful to witness the result of the present experiment. Icarus trying to reach the sun with his little wings of wax, is the fittest emblem of Mr. Heraud's epic flight. The most lamentable part of the affair is, that he is unconscious of the failure. The Preface, the Introduction,

the introductory Ode, and the Palinode, or hymn of gratulation, at the close of the poem, all indicate that the author believes he has written a work destined to take an immortal place among the masterpieces of epic song. Had the critics been a little more candid, and a little less complimentary when the 'Judgement of the Flood' first made its appearance, Mr. Heraud might have had some misgivings as to the fate of his poem. But having been "encouraged by the highest literary authorities," as he tells us, he has persevered in his undertaking; and after withdrawing the work from circulation, and bestowing upon it years of additional labour, it is now finally submitted to critical judgment.

Of the argument of the poem we cannot attempt to give a detailed analysis. The subject is the Noachian deluge, but mythical and super-terrestrial themes are mingled with the main narrative. As long as the striking and suggestive, though brief historical notices of the Mosaic record are followed, the story is intelligible; but the author gets bewildered in the regions of legend and allegory. "In the spirit and contents of the poem," Mr. Heraud says, "all is purposely gigantic—the plot, the persons, the crimes, the language, the imagery." The straining to sustain this superhuman stature mars the interest of the subject. The very names too often check the sympathy that the reader ought to feel in the events of the early history of the world. Lamech, and Methuselah, and the sons of Noah, are familiar personages; but when from scripture we are carried to the apocryphal "Book of Enoch," we are repelled by the unknown names of Barkayal and Amazarah, Dudael and Dunbadan. As we are refraining from entering on the subject of the poem, we dwell no longer on the persons or events which Mr. Heraud has adopted or invented. We confine our notice to the style and the versification, by which his claims to epic rank may be readily tested. Let the opening lines of the poem be compared with the invocation in the beginning of the 'Paradise Lost':—

"One Sabbath, lo! I clomb the misty sides,
At Dayspring, till I reached the glorious top
Of perfect Ararat; whereon the Flood
Stranded the Ark of Noah: soon I heard,
Whiles, in the Spirit, resting there, 'All hail.'
Then, on my face I fell, and thus I prayed:
"Of Him, the Oldest Man—Methuselah,
Whose Death forenamed brought wreck on the huge
World;
Of Noah, the rejected priest of Truth;
Of Wrong primeval, and the Father's Wrath;
How War lays waste, and Peace corrupts mankind;
Nations, and peoples; patriarchs, and kings;
Angels, men, demons; Earth, and Heaven, and Hell;
Lands without name, and Language without words;
The cataracts of the everlasting Height,
The fountains of the æternal Deep;
Antient of Days, instruct the solemn song.
—Omniscient Spirit, Presence of the past,
Rend, rend the veil; unblasted, let me look
Into the Holiest: On that Dial's front,
Whose hours are ages, bid the Sun return,
That I may read their history aloud;
Disperse the mist from Ocean's monstrous face,
And purge my sight, that I may see beyond;
And, from the mystic, unrevealed profound
Of universal Deluge, may evoke,
As from a sepulchre, the Spectres dread
Of giant crime, of passions darkly great;
Imaginations awful, unexplored,
Begot incessant on the evil heart;
Dire brood of Mind rebellious, bold to scale
The hill of heaven, and dare the brow of God." "

Instead of the severe and sublime simplicity with which Milton and other great poets introduce their subjects, there is here a laboured expansion and inflation, the struggle of a mind under a burden too heavy for its strength. This appears throughout the narrative and legendary part of the work, and it is only in detailed descriptions that Mr.

Heraud is more at home. Some of these have considerable poetical beauty, but there is a tendency to diffuseness and over-minuteness of style. The description, for instance, of the animals entering Noah's ark, occupies four or five hundred lines, looking on the whole like a metrical version of the catalogue of a zoological garden, after this manner:—

"The Buffalo, and Bison, larger Ox,
Of forehead broad, and high, with withers huge,
Shaggy with hair, a black and woolly mane,
Short-horned, brief-tailed, short-legged and muscular—
The Wild Ox, and the Zebu, and the Yak,
The Musk Ox, race cornute, and ruminant,
Dew-lapped, robust, yet elegant of form—
The Aurochs, and the Arni. Mild the Cow,
Domestic, useful, yielding of her milk
For human needs."

An instructive and amusing exercise for young people the reading of this inventory would prove, to say nothing of the "brief-tailed" ruminants as a hint in terminology for Professor Owen, but scarcely worthy of the space it occupies even in a narrative of the Noachian deluge. In many passages the adoption of the thoughts as well as the imitation of the style of 'Paradise Lost' is apparent, as where the idea of the fallen spirit as "an archangel, though in ruin," is thus reproduced in the picture of Samiassa, one of the heroes of the poem, the type of the antediluvian race of giants:—

"Swifter than at touch
Of spell-rod, or a charming verse, the King
Arose, and o'er his prostrate brother stood
Terribly eminent. Was never yet
His visage marred as now; a thunderstroke
Had not so much disfigured that sublime
Forehead, whereon of old sat thought enthroned,
And yet in ruin there was visible;
Though shaded o'er with horror dark as Hell:
Not totally obscured."

A work involving so much labour, and displaying so much industry, fairly merits passing notice, although found miserably wanting when tried by the epic standard with which the author has invited comparison.

Russia at the Close of the Sixteenth Century: comprising the Treatise 'Of the Russe Commonwealth,' by Dr. Giles Fletcher; and the Travels of Sir Jerome Horsey, Knt., now for the first time printed entire from his own Manuscript. Edited by Edward A. Bond, Assistant Keeper of the Manuscripts in the British Museum. Printed for the Hakluyt Society.

The interest attaching to the Hakluyt Society's publications is usually of an antiquarian nature. It is expected that the reader will not be one whose studies are directed to no other end than the attainment of some practical result, but one with sufficient love of knowledge in the abstract to welcome her for her own sake, without reference to the cares and interests of his own day; and whose composition includes enough of antiquarian fervour to sympathise with anything, no matter how bald or uninteresting in itself, that helps to interpret the life of former generations. Mr. Bond's volume has so far the advantage of most of those which have issued from the Society's press, that it relates to a subject on which all are willing to become antiquarians for the nonce. The recent contest has inspired an universal wish to know all that can be known about Russia. We now perceive that, on our side at least, it was carried on to a considerable extent in the dark. This inevitably led us into many errors, not the least of which was the injustice with which we were at one time inclined to treat our adversaries. The recollection of this involuntary wrong is one truly galling to a

generous nation, and it is impossible to consult the organs of the national sentiment without perceiving that our hostility has of late been replaced by a very different feeling. Not that we are one whit less firmly purposed to guard against Russian aggressions, but we have begun to allow that a diametrical opposition of interest and policy between two nations may be compatible with sincere good-will and mutual esteem. Very few Englishmen, we should hope, feel any sympathy with the principles and system of the Russian government; but we should hope also that those are not more numerous who, the character of the Russian people being under discussion, would refuse to unite with our own warriors in their verdict of 'Ruskie bono!'

The reader, then, who feels any curiosity to know what was going on in Russia during the youth of Shakespeare and Bacon, will find much to interest him in the two books which Mr. Bond has now brought forward, one from oblivion and the other from MS. These works differ in their objects. Dr. Fletcher (a busy and learned civilian, set in his time to run on many political errands, father of the author of 'The Purple Island,' and uncle of the Fletcher) aims principally at setting forth the polity of the Russian princes, and evidently writes with Machiavelli in his eye. His plan also includes some account of the country, its people and products; but, although his style is good, he is unacquainted with the art of word-painting, and writes with something of the aridity as well as of the accuracy of a gazetteer. Horsey's descriptions are merely incidental, and his indulgences in speculation rare. His diction, though frequently picturesque, is seldom natural, affecting the Tacitus. Though his work is entitled *Travels*, it is in reality a memoir, or report of the politics of the Muscovite court, and more especially his own share in them. This was not inconsiderable, he having spent sixteen years (1575—1591) in the country, first as agent of the Russia Company, afterwards as English envoy. For both these posts he was well qualified, being bold, ready, adroit, and with about as many scruples as might be expected from the paid agent of a trading corporation.

This was the Russia Company, which in Horsey's time enjoyed nearly a monopoly of the foreign trade with Russia, and which was continually making efforts to establish an overland traffic with Persia and Armenia. Many and romantic were the expeditions undertaken by its agents in pursuit of this latter object, in which they received ample encouragement from the English Government. Had every other monument of Queen Elizabeth's sway disappeared, the facts adduced by Mr. Bond in his most interesting preface would still sufficiently evince the depth of her views, the wisdom of her policy, and the genuineness of her claim to the title of the mother of her people. Russia was at that time ruled by a prince whose character presents no inconsiderable analogy to that of Elizabeth's father, and whose place in Muscovite history is hardly less marked than that held by Henry in our own. Ivan's subjects doubtless expressed the most salient feature of his character when they surnamed him the Terrible, and certainly Caligula or Caracalla never gave examples of equal ferocity. Yet he could practise the advice of Lyander without having heard it, and piece out the lion's hide with the fox's skin. His post-

tion in Russia was not unlike that which Louis XI. had occupied in France a hundred years before his time. Each of these princes was cruel, crafty, and avaricious. Each had to deal with a powerful feudal aristocracy, which it was his object to humiliate by every possible means. Each sincerely desired and strenuously attempted the aggrandizement of his country. Superior civilization had refined the native subtlety of Louis to a degree that Ivan would have admired and envied; the rude atmosphere he breathed had nurtured the high spirit natural to Ivan into a degree of ferocity and arrogance that would have reminded Louis of Charles the Bold, had it not been accompanied by an astuteness equal to that with which Henry VIII. contrived to represent his passions as indulged for the sake (as they certainly were to the advantage) of his subjects. The barbarity and cunning of Ivan were especially conspicuous in the manner in which he broke the power of the hereditary aristocracy, and made himself what his successors have been ever since—an absolute Czar. His grand principle was to encourage dissensions among the great houses, which rose at length to such a height that three hundred noblemen were slain at Moscow in a single week—the Emperor seized their estates, and employed the money thus acquired to depress the murderers in their turn. Having once got them down, he knew how to prevent their rising. He followed the example of Louis XI. and all other wise despots in his circumstances, by most carefully removing the old nobility from all their hereditary offices, and filling these with new men of mean birth and indifferent character, zealous, therefore, in the service of a prince in whose favour lay their only safety. The members of the ancient aristocracy received lands held at the Czar's pleasure, situated in remote parts of the empire, where their names were scarcely known, and where they could exercise no dangerous influence. Even this was not sufficient, and in Horsey's time Siberia and the convent were continually receiving some one who, a century earlier, would have led the national armies against the Tartar, and dispensed life and death of his own absolute will to thousands of serfs. Whatever may be thought of the means, there can be no doubt that Russia owes much of her present greatness to Ivan's partial attainment of his end—partial, because the new nobility have succeeded in regaining much of the influence of the old. We would not be misunderstood. No country is complete—in fact, no country can exist—without an aristocracy of some kind or other. But all experience shows that the exclusive predominance of any class—such a predominance as the Russian nobles enjoyed before Ivan's time—is fatal at length to it and to all the rest. Poland might now be playing the part of Russia, had she ever been blessed with an Ivan the Terrible.

We do not hear much of Ivan's benefits to the lower class of his subjects, nor does he deserve much credit for an enlightened policy in this respect. It is true, that, notwithstanding the calamities of his latter years, the material prosperity of the country was greatly enhanced at his death, but it seems clear that, although this was mainly a result of the facilities he had granted to trade, he had no other motive for so doing than a desire to fill his own coffers. Fletcher, indeed, accuses him of employing an organized system of spoliation, but we must make great allowances for the

difficulty with which one coming from a country always famous for its respect to the law, would enter into the notions prevalent in semi-barbarous Russia; nor is it improbable that the had success of his mission may not have been without influence on his judgment. This premised, some of the anecdotes he tells on this point are sufficiently characteristic. Ivan, for example, on one occasion—

"sent to the citie of Mosko to provide for him a colpack or measure full of live fleas, for a medicine. They returned answere that the thing was impossible. And if they could get them, yet they could not measure them for leaping out. Whereupon he praved or beat out of their shinnes 7000 rubles for a mulet."

The Church was also a prolific source of revenue to Ivan. The Russian monks had just enough conscience to be aware that they possessed considerably more wealth than was exactly compatible with a due observance of their vows, and that a confiscation of their property by the Czar might easily be justified as a means of bringing them nearer to the apostolic model. Accordingly, they kept their purse-strings loose, and none of the monarch's frequent applications to their liberality met with a refusal. On his part, Ivan was much too sagacious to kill the goose that laid such golden eggs, and the relations between himself and his ecclesiastical subjects continued during his reign on a pretty equable footing; they regarding him as a dispensation incomprehensible, disagreeable, and inevitable; and he them as a fruitful orchard, by no means to be cut down so long as it continued to bear its produce in due season. He was, however, too true a Russian not to be superstitious; the mystic virtues of precious stones claimed a large portion of his faith, and Lapp wizards of his patronage; and his religious impressibility proved on one occasion the salvation of the city of Pskov, which, Horsey tells us, he had intended to visit with utter destruction—

"But that they mett him an impostor or magician, which they held to be their oracle, a holy man named Mickula Sweat [i.e. the Saint], whose, by his bold imprecations and exorsims, railings and threats, terming him the Emperour bloudsucker, the devourer and eater of Christian flesh, and swore by his angel that he should not escape death of a present thunder bolt, if he or any of his army did touch a hear in displeasure of the least child's head in that citie, which God, by his good angel, did preserve for better purpose then his rapine; therefore to gett him thence before the fierce cloud, God's wrath wear raised, hanginge over his head as he might behold, beinge in a vorie great and dark storm at that instant. These wordes made the Emperour to trembell, so as he desired preys for his deliverance and forgiveness of his cruel thoughts. I saw this impostor or magician, a fowle creature, went naked both in winter and summer; he indured both extreame frost and heat; did many streinge things throw the magickall illusions of the Divell; much followed, feared, and reverenced, both of prince and people."

No such prophet stood in the breach between Ivan and Novgorod, which city had given him equal offence with Pskov, and which was destroyed with most fearful massacre. Repeated disasters and mortifications had at that time exasperated him beyond all bounds. The splendid conquests of his youth seemed slipping from his grasp. Livonia had been regained by the Swedes and Poles, and although he still retained Casan and Astrachan, he was unable to prevent the Khan of the Crimea from ravaging his empire and reducing Moscow itself to ashes. These calamities induced him to look out for

foreign assistance, particularly towards England. The history of the many embassies despatched to his court by Queen Elizabeth has been narrated by Mr. Bond with admirable perspicuity. The object of the English was to obtain the most extensive privileges possible for the Russia Company, without entangling themselves in any of the Emperor's wars. Ivan, on the contrary, wished to allure Elizabeth into an alliance offensive and defensive, and only allowed commercial matters to be discussed as a means to that end. Each party thus seeking to gain everything without yielding anything, it is not wonderful that the negotiations should have been for the most part the reverse of satisfactory. The English willingly promised Ivan a safe retreat in their country, should circumstances render such an asylum necessary; but his demand for an English wife was civilly eluded. Their continual evasions greatly exasperated the Czar, who was, notwithstanding, on the point of conceding the long expected charter, when his intention was frustrated by death. The weak Emperor Feodor, his successor, was at first under the influence of men extremely hostile to the Company, and Sir Jerome Bowes, the ambassador, was obliged to leave Russia almost immediately. Horsey, however, remained at his post, and before long the ascendancy obtained by the subtle and clear-headed Boris Godunow, afterwards Czar, to say nothing of a very discreditable service performed by the Englishman for the Government, enabled him to procure the ratification of a highly advantageous charter. This encouraged Elizabeth to send an envoy extraordinary in the person of Dr. Fletcher, who it was hoped would obtain privileges yet more extensive. Causes of quarrel, however, arose, which entirely frustrated the success of his mission, and Horsey himself, when taken from his private post and made ambassador, was more unsuccessful still. The imperious tone of his instructions compelled him to adopt a line of proceeding highly distasteful to the Russian ministers; complaints against his conduct as the Company's agent were found or imagined; the charter was definitively revoked, and the envoy dismissed with a letter informing Elizabeth that nothing but the protection of Boris had prevented his being put to death. Just before his departure occurred the murder of the Czar-witch Demetrius, by the emissaries of Boris, an event whose remarkable consequences have made it famous throughout the civilized world, and which could hardly be more vividly illustrated than by his own words. He was at the time, it should be observed, in constant fear of violence:—

"One night I commended my soul to God above other, thinkings verily the tyme of my end was com. One rap at my gate at midnight. I was well furnished with pistols and weapons. I and my servants, some fifteen, went with these weapons to the gate. 'O my good friend, Jeron enobled, lett me speak with you!' I saw by moonshine the Emperis brother, Alphonassy Nagoe. 'The Charowich Demetries is dead: his throate was cutt about the sixth hower by the deaches [diacks]; some one of his pagis confessed upon the racke by Boris his setting one; and the Emperis poysoned and upon pointe of death, her hear, and naills, and skin falls of: haelp and geave some good thinge, for the passion of Christ his sake!' I ran up, faetched a littell bottell of pure sallett oyle (that littell vial of haekon that the Queen gave me) and a box of Venice truckle. 'Here is what I have, I praie God, it maye do her good!' Gave it over the wall; who hid him post awaie."

Much of Horsey's portion of this volume—which Mr. Bond has considerably augmented by the addition of an appendix of miscellaneous documents by him, illustrative of his travels—is occupied by apologies for his conduct against the aspersions of the Company and Sir Jerome Bowes, he having contrived to quarrel with both. These possess little interest. More important are the notices of Russian manners and character to be met with both in his book and Fletcher's, more especially the latter. They tally remarkably with the accounts of modern travellers, so as to suggest that the condition of the bulk of the people has undergone little substantial alteration in the last three centuries. We are sorry to find the great failing of a nation possessing many endowments and many virtues set forth so decisively as in this pithy paragraph:—

"From the greatest to the smallest, except some fewe that will scarce be founde, the Russe neither beleeveth anie thinge that another man speaketh, nor speaketh anie thinge himselfe worthis to be beleeveth."

Mr. Bond's acumen as an editor is displayed in many corrections of facts inaccurately stated in his text, but his principal title to eulogy is derived from his preface—an elegant and luminous essay, presenting a judicious summary of the leading facts of a highly important portion of Russian history, and rendering full justice to the persevering energy with which the English strove to balance the riches of Spain by engrossing in their turn the commerce of the northern world.

The Miscellanies of John Aubrey, F.R.S. Fourth Edition, with some Additions, and an Index, &c. J. Russell Smith.

'THE Miscellanies of John Aubrey' will always find readers, but especially among two classes of people—the superstitious and credulous, and those who perceive in such works glimpses of an age which has passed away for ever. We cannot deny the existence of superstition in a somewhat repulsive form in the present day. Divested of nearly every poetical trace which, in the eyes of some people, once redeemed it, superstition is still rife in many a town and hamlet, as occasional paragraphs in our provincial newspapers sufficiently testify. Scott inherited it, and Byron, although in manhood he abjured the creed which his infant lips had often repeated, considered Friday a day peculiarly unlucky to him! Take your stand in a crowded thoroughfare in our metropolis where a house is undergoing repair, and note the number who avoid passing under the ladder! Superstition, we regret to notice, is yet rife in this country, and more especially among the highest and the humblest classes. That it should exist among the latter is explained by the amount of ignorance which, notwithstanding the spread of education, yet prevails throughout the length and breadth of the land; while to the fact that the children of the higher classes are in early infancy too much confided to the care of servants, may be ascribed the superstition of the former, which all the education of their maturer age fails to eradicate entirely.

Let us not, therefore, deal harshly with the author of the Miscellanies, which, while they stand as records of his credulity, faithfully reflect the manners of our forefathers. He was a good-natured person, as all but crabbed

Antony à Wood will allow; and, though abundantly superstitious, a lover of learning and of learned men. He was one of the early Fellows of the Royal Society, long before the pompous blockhead Stukeley railed at one of that junto for supposing "corral body's" to be the production of animals. He lived in an age when even the learned believed in the properties of mandragora, and the statute against witchcraft was not a dead letter. Peace to his shade! We have traced him, from the time of his abiding in melancholy seclusion in the place of his birth, to the period of his matriculation at Oxford;—from his visit to Alma Mater "in sparkish garb," as the cynic of the Athenæ expresses it, to his skulking to avoid the tipstaff, with threadbare doublet and "seedy" hose, in the fetid atmosphere of plague-engendering London's closest alleys; and in all his wanderings up and down, in all his shifts and trials, we do not discover that he has recorded a single uncharitable sentiment against friend or foe.

A belief in lucky and unlucky days, and omens, were articles of faith with Aubrey. A whole chapter is devoted to Day Fatality, another to the Fatalities of Families and Places, and here we find a curious recital of facts, although modern philosophy may derive different inferences from them. Here are some notes which may interest the metropolitan topographer:—

"Tis certain, that there are some houses unlucky to their inhabitants, which the reverend and pious Dr. Neper could acknowledge. See 'Tobit,' chap. 3, v. 8.—'That she had been married to seven husbands, whom Asmodeus, the evil spirit had killed, before they had lain with her.'

"The Fleece-tavern, in Covent-garden, (in York-street) was very unfortunate for homicides: there have been several killed, three in my time. It is now (1692) a private house.

"A handsome brick house on the south side of Clerkenwell churchyard had been so unlucky for at least forty years, that it was seldom tenanted; and at last, no body would adventure to take it. Also a handsome house in Holborn, that looked toward the fields; the tenants of it did not prosper, several, about six.

"At the sign of — over against Northumberland House, near Charing-cross, died the Lady Baynton, (eldest daughter of Sir John Danvers of Dantsey). Some years after, in the same house, died my Lady Hobby (her sister) of the smallpox, and about twenty years after, died their nephew Henry Danvers, Esq., of the smallpox, aged twenty-one, wanting two weeks. He was nephew and heir to the Right Honourable Henry Danvers, Earl of Danby."

The angry Paterfamilias may take warning by the following:—

"Disinheriting the eldest son is forbid in the holy scripture, and estates disinherited are observed to be unfortunate; of which one might make a large catalogue. See Dr. Saunderson's Sermon, where he discourses of this subject."

Portents are briefly discussed, and backed by the opinion of N. Machiavelli. On Omens he is didactic. Some of these supposed presages are curious enough:—

"The silver cross that was wont to be carried before Cardinal Wolsey, fell out of its socket, and was like to have knocked out the brains of one of the Bishop's servants. A very little while after, came in a messenger, and arrested the Cardinal, before he could get out of the house. See Stow's 'Chronicle.'

"Tis commonly reported, that before an heir of the Cliftons, of Clifton in Nottinghamshire, dies, that a sturgeon is taken in the river Trent, by that place.

"Thomas Flud, Esq., in Kent, told me that it

is an old observation, which was pressed earnestly to King James I., that he should not remove the Queen of Scots body from Northamptonshire, where she was beheaded and interred: for that it always bodes ill to the family, when bodies are removed from their graves. For some of the family will die shortly after, as did Prince Henry, and I think Queen Ann."

The following will provoke a smile:—

"A little before the death of Oliver, the Protector, a whale came into the river Thames, and was taken at Greenwich, — feet long. 'Tis said Oliver was troubled at it."

Verily the royalists should have preserved the skeleton of the monster that had caused the stout heart of the Protector to quail!

Some curious anecdotes of Charles I. are given, among which are the following:—

"When I was a freshman at Oxford, 1642, I was wont to go to Christ church, to see King Charles I. at supper; where I once heard him say, 'That as he was hawking in Scotland, he rode into the quarry, and found the covey of partridges falling upon the hawk; and I do remember this expression further, viz., and I will swear upon the book 'tis true.' When I came to my chamber, I told this story to my tutor; said he, that covey was London."

"The bust of King Charles I., carved by Bernini, as it was brought in a boat upon the Thames, a strange bird (the like whereof the bargemen had never seen) dropped a drop of blood, or blood-like upon it; which left a stain not to be wiped off. This bust was carved from a picture of Sir Anthony Van Dyke's drawing: the sculptor found great fault with the forehead as most unfortunate. There was a seam in the middle of his forehead (downwards), which is a very ill sign in metoposcopia."

"Colonel Sharington Talbot was at Nottingham, when King Charles I. did set up his standard upon the top of the tower there. He told me, that the first night, the wind blew it so, that it hung down almost horizontal; which some did take to be an ill omen."

"The day that the Long Parliament began, 1641, the sceptre fell out of the figure of King Charles in wood, in Sir Thomas Trenchard's hall, at Wullich, in Dorset, as they were at dinner in the parlour: Justice Hunt then dined there."

Anecdotes of this description abound, and for these the volume will always find favour among those who may smile at the credulity of the compiler.

Stars and Stripes; or American Impressions.

By Ivan Golovin. London: Freeman. New York: Appleton and Co.

THE Americans will not feel flattered by these Russian sketches of their national character and institutions. Ivan Golovin, an exile from his own country and a naturalized Englishman, crossed the Atlantic with every disposition to admire the great republic of the New World. After some experience of life he had been thoroughly *désillusionné* as to the supreme excellence of any political government, but he "thought that he should more easily accommodate himself to the defects of democracy than the vices of aristocracy." This feeling he strongly cherished at the moment of leaving England for the States, in the summer of 1855, when "the war for freedom and civilization had become really a war of incapacities." He was willing to believe that America is a better edition of Great Britain, where old errors have been corrected and new improvements introduced. After seeing with his own eyes, and hearing with his own ears, what is his report?—

"Mr. Hunt has statistically established that but one-half of the merchants succeed, and I think it is the half which cheats the other half. Swindlers

in the North, slaveholders in the South, and border ruffians in the West, constitute the white population of the 'glorious and great country,' which boasts to be the leader of mankind. As to unsuccessful imitators of English fashions, and aristocrats among democrats, they are not worth mentioning."

And again:—

"One must be anvil or hammer, dupe or swindler, here more than anywhere else. One-half of the people cheats the other part in the whole world, but out of three Yankees there are four swindlers."

We are not sure whether the writer has accidentally transposed the three and four, or whether he intends this for an emphatic joke, but the book abounds in similar absurdities of exaggeration. Thus, we read in reference to the slave trade:—

"The Cubans are now obliged to look somewhere else for labourers, and last year 300,000 Chinese were imported by a single firm in Havana. But, alarmed by the extension the Queen of the Antillas is likely to assume when aid is no longer requisite, the English Government prohibits the exportation of Chinese women."

The three hundred thousand may be a misprint for three thousand, but the English Government might as well be said to prohibit the exportation of Russian hides as Chinese women! Blunders and ignorance appear too frequently to admit of allowance for casual errors of the press. "All the beggars come from the Canadian islands, which send also here girls of dissolute habits." Latin quotations are often introduced, and almost invariably blundered. Americans are said to have a pride similar to that which caused the old Romans to exclaim *Cives Romanus sum*. Lucan's well-known line is thus misquoted:—

"Causa victoris deis placuit sed victis Catoni."

In describing the characteristics of the American historians, Prescott is said to be "elementary in his *critics*," he begins each of them *ab ovo*—i.e., with the principles and the history of the science of which he treats." Yet with all this ridiculous blundering there are sound political reflections in the book, as in the letters to M. de Tocqueville on Political Parties, to M. Louis Blanc on Democracy and Socialism, and on American Slavery and Russian Serfdom to M. Scholcher. The work is in the form of letters addressed to many European men of note whom the author numbers among his friends. To give but one example of his political observations, addressed to M. de Tocqueville:—

"My stay in Russia taught me that good sovereigns are a rare chance; my stay in England showed me that constitutional government is fit but for very moderate people, now that reforms lead to republics; my sojourn in America convinced me that democracy is developing the material instincts of man at the expense of his intellect and morality; that with the license existing here not the best, but the worst of human passions take the lead, and that honour and intellect being in minority with man, the government of the majority is that of dishonesty and stupidity. The conclusion of the whole must be that the best government is still a *desideratum*, but by no means a confirmation of Proudhon's maxim, that governments are good for nothing, and that anarchy is the best of them. I learned here something I never thought myself capable of—i.e., to feel the utility and the necessity of police, and to look for their protection; whilst in some continental countries of Europe one must look for protection against the very police, and especially the detective and political one."

From a Russian the following warnings

about the Russian military and naval settlements on the Pacific, and the American encroachments in Central America, are not without significance:—

"Panama is nearer to Calcutta than London, and the Americans can do great mischief in India. The possession of the isthmus of Darien is therefore not of absolute necessity to them. Central America will surely involve the greatest powers in a sublime contest, and the best thing England could do is to have some colonies in Costa Rica. There is no trade possible on the Siberian shores of the Pacific. Therefore, the Russian fleet, which is to be erected there, can have no other purpose than that of threatening Calcutta, in common with American squadrons."

Mr. Arrowsmith's recent revelation about railways and revolvers in Georgia, although met by an outcry of affected incredulity and indignation, is perfectly in keeping with what is perpetually occurring in the United States. When such scenes take place in the legislative assembly of the country as the ruffian assault on Mr. Sumner, no surprise need be felt at the frequency of the outrages in less conspicuous localities. In England we have to deplore the occasional occurrence of violence and crime, but men do not commonly carry offensive weapons in this country, and it is not thought inconsistent with the liberty of the subject to have a well-organized and efficient police, the greatest want, according to Ivan Golovin, in the "free and enlightened Republic."

"The newspapers give us the list of murders and other crimes committed in New Orleans; no day elapses but they are filled with news of this kind. * * * This very moment a bereaved father promises 500 dollars to any one who will restore him his son, dead or alive, probably murdered on his return from an evening party—no clue."

In another aspect of social life—the treatment of woman, and her position in the eye of the law,—the Americans appear more favourably:—

"The woman enjoys here an indisputable protection of the laws. She is maintained against her husband in most cases, and is always right in every contest. She has but to go before the magistrate to obtain whatever she pleases, either the locking-up of her husband, or the sequestration of his property for the benefit of her children."

On slavery, colonization, commerce, journalism, various social and political questions, the author's remarks are so sensible that the strange errors and monstrous statements every now and then occurring in the book are the more unaccountable. There is nothing in the works of Dickens or Marryat, or even Mrs. Trollope, more outrageous than some of the nonsense of this Russian caricaturist:—

"Rubbish stuffs are brought out in such large quantities that it becomes difficult to get a publisher for a good work. There are private libraries consisting of 300 or 500 copies of the same work; a man getting rich wants a library, and fills the shelves with no matter what."

And here is the whole summed up in one sentence:—

"An American is an Englishman who wears a beard without moustache; an intoxicated Britisher who keeps his feet in the air, speaks through his nose, and spits over people's heads, who aims at money-making, little caring about such a trifle as respectability."

Good round abuse is likely to attract notice, and we suspect that Ivan Golovin's impressions have been manufactured, or at least "dressed," like other "rubbish stuffs," for the American market.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Notes upon Thucydides, Original and Compiled.* By John G. Sheppard, M.A., and Lewis Evans, M.A. Books I. and II. John W. Parker and Son.
- A System of Physical Geography, &c.: to which is added, A Treatise on the Physical Geography of the United States.* By D. M. Warren. Sampson Low, Son, and Co.
- A Pilgrimage into Dauphine, comprising a Visit to the Monastery of the Grande Chartreuse, &c.* By the Rev. G. M. Musgrave, M.A. 2 vols. Hurst and Blackett.
- Travels in Bohemia, with a Walk through the Highlands of Saxony.* By an Old Traveller. 2 vols. T. C. Newby.
- Travel, and Recollections of Travel, with a Chat upon various Subjects.* By Dr. John Shaw. Saunders and Otley.
- Sketches of a Tour in Egypt and Palestine during the Spring of 1856.* Nisbet and Co.
- William Shakespeare not an Impostor.* By an English Critic. G. Routledge and Co.
- The Constitution of the Animal Creation as expressed in Structural Appendages.* By G. Calvert Holland, M.D. Churchill.
- Of Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease.* By Sir John Forbes, M.D. F.R.S. Churchill.
- The Days of My Life: an Autobiography.* By the Author of "Margaret Maitland." 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.
- Freida the Jongleur.* By Barbara Hemphill. 3 vols. Chapman and Hall.
- On Talent; or, Woman's Manuvers and Man's Tactics.* By Annette Marie Maillard. 3 vols. T. C. Newby.
- A Dictionary of Practical Medicine.* By James Copland, M.D. F.R.S. Part XVIII. Longman and Co.
- The Cure of the Sick.* By Richard Barwell. Chapman and Hall.

It appears to be generally believed that the days of great scholarship are gone by, and that, in proportion as the field of study is enlarged, learning will become superficial. We do not share in these apprehensions. There will always be a sufficiently large number of men whose tastes will lead them to devote their lives to minute criticism. These will supply teachers and commentators. The practical usefulness of classical study, as an agent of education for the many, consists in something much more attainable than this. As far as Greek is concerned, to understand the language sufficiently to appreciate its grandeur, its elegance, its perspicuity, and to have a critical knowledge of the great masters of Attic eloquence, is sufficient for most men. And there is every reason to believe that such an amount of learning as this is daily becoming more general. The system of requiring students at the University to pass several examinations before they take their degree, is highly conducive to this. Men who do not care to distinguish themselves, and who would have crammed for six weeks before the "great go" to push through the poll, are now obliged to spread their reading over a space of several years. To meet the requirements of this class, and to supply all that is requisite to be known of Thucydides at the second examination, Mr. John G. Sheppard, Head Master of Kidderminster School, and formerly Fellow of Wadham, and Mr. Lewis Evans, Head Master of Sandbach School, and late a Fellow of the same college, have compiled a valuable mass of annotations, to which they have added much original matter. They do not pretend to give a critical digest of the various readings. This would be useless to the class of students for whom they write. But they discuss, with ample learning, all obvious questions relating to peculiarities of construction and style, the idiomatic use of terms, history, geography, and comparative criticism. Poppo, Arnold, Gölter, Bloomfield, and Krüger are the previous commentators whose authority is chiefly relied on; and for history, Cranmer, Grote, and Kühner are followed. Passages of peculiar difficulty are treated more fully in an Appendix. Though these notes are intended to be somewhat elementary, none but a very advanced student could possibly require a fuller commentary. The present volume contains the Notes on the first two books only.

The study of Physical Geography has now become a regular part of educational training, and some information on the subject is prefixed to ordinary geographical manuals. Special works have also been prepared as text-books, with charts and illustrations reduced from larger scientific treatises. The atlases published by Mr. Alexander Keith Johnston have greatly contributed to the diffusion of this department of knowledge. Founded on his

maps, with suggestions adopted from the works of Guyot, Maury, Ansted, and other writers, an American editor, Mr. D. M. Warren, has compiled a popular system of physical geography, which is admirably adapted for school use. The works of Petermann and Milner, as well as of Johnstone and Ansted, have furnished important materials; and in special parts of the atlas the best authorities have been consulted. It is honourable to American science that some of these are native authorities. Thus, in the description of the ocean and its currents, and on navigation, Lieutenant Maury's 'Sailing Directions' supply the chief facts. The winds of the northern hemisphere have been described from the treatise of Professor Coffin published by the Smithsonian Institute. Dr. Kane has furnished the information relating to recent Arctic discovery. In the account of the Physical Geography of the United States much of the matter has been obtained from the Army Meteorological Register kept at the forts and military stations throughout the States, and from the 'Report of the Explorations and Surveys for the Pacific Railroad.' These American contributions are sufficient to give a distinct character to the work, and to admit claims to originality notwithstanding the use that has been made of treatises already published of a similar kind. The maps are executed by an experienced geographer, and the illustrative woodcuts are cleverly drawn, and convey much useful information in an attractive form. Botany, Zoology, and Ethnology form subjects of illustration as well as the inorganic sections of the science of physical geography. Questions for examination and exercise appended to each section add to the educational utility of the work, which is likely to prove an attractive as well as instructive school book.

The eccentric but unassuming title of Dr. John Shaw's book, *Travel and Recollections of Travel, with a Chat upon various Subjects*, checks severe criticism, and we have derived more entertainment from the work than from the more formal narratives of travel by the same author. Dr. Shaw has been an adventurous traveller, and has visited scenes in many parts of the world out of the beaten tracks of tourists. The present volume consists of rambling recollections and discursive reflections on his various wanderings, and some curious passages there are in the narrative portion of the work. In the course of his miscellaneous gossip Dr. Shaw states that he was a contemporary of Edward Forbes in his student days at Paris and Edinburgh, and was one of the original members of the Association, an offshoot of which long survived in the Red Lion Club, in whose cheerful social meetings some of our readers may have had the pleasure of joining. This claim on Dr. Shaw's part of social and scientific freemasonry comes out in mentioning his fortunate encounter with the bearer of one of the red ribbons and triangles in Australia. The brotherly treatment he met with from the Australian member of the society, a Scottish clergyman, who had studied at Edinburgh, is gratefully recorded by Dr. Shaw, and we confess that sympathy with him as a member of the brotherhood, recalling many pleasant associations, leads us to regard the book and its author with a kinder feeling. Even if there were more numerous faults in the book, a writer can scarcely fail to afford much amusement who tells the adventures that have befallen him during long years of travel from the North Cape to New Zealand, and in the New as well as in the Old World.

The *Sketches of a Tour in Egypt and Palestine*, in the Spring of 1856, do not present any novelty of observation in a field of travel so thoroughly trite, but are acceptable as containing an unpretending and authentic record of a recent visit to well-known scenes by a writer of intelligence and right feeling. The party consisted of two ladies and a gentleman, an invalid, not capable of much exertion. When they managed to see so much as is narrated in this journal of travels, many may be encouraged to imitate their example, and enjoy similar pleasures.

The English Critic who undertakes to vindicate

the fame of Shakspeare against the aspersions of Mr. Smith is well acquainted with his subject. But *le jeu ne vaut pas la chandelle*. There is a considerable waste of good material in this brochure; and it is not unlikely, moreover, to have, with some people, an effect the very contrary of that intended by the author. There are readers who always think, with Hazlitt, that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire, and who, seeing that so competent a writer thinks it necessary to expose the absurdities of the Baconian theory, will be strongly inclined to suspect, in spite of his proofs, that "there must be something in it." If left to itself, Mr. Smith's crotchets must soon die out. It seems that he acknowledged lately, in a lecture he delivered upon the subject, that "at present sufficient reasons had not been advanced for depriving Shakspeare of his reputation as author of the plays attributed to him;" and it would be well to let the matter rest there. But in making this remarkable acknowledgment, Mr. Smith appears to have been entirely unconscious of the sentence of condemnation he was pronouncing upon the course he has taken. If there are not "sufficient reasons" for disturbing Shakspeare's reputation, he should have waited for further evidence before he launched his ill-considered pamphlet. The English Critic has by no means exhausted the testimonies which might be collected in proof of Shakspeare's ownership of what Mr. Smith calls "the plays attributed to him." Indeed the witnesses who, directly and indirectly, from Greene and Meres down to Dryden, might be called into court upon personal knowledge and common repute, are much more numerous than Shakspearian students, who have hitherto had no occasion to examine the question from this point of view, have hitherto suspected. Our Critic would have made his argument more clear and potent if he had wholly avoided all excursions into other subjects, had kept closely to the single object of evidence, and produced his proofs in a more compact form. The little book, however, is written in an excellent spirit, is full of facts and authorities not accessible to the class of readers amongst whom it is likely to circulate largely, and may be commended equally for zeal and information.

The *vis medicatrix naturæ* used to be a phrase and a principle better known in old books of medicine than in many modern treatises. To impress upon young practitioners the importance of this ancient principle, may be said to be the main design of Sir John Forbes' book on *Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease*—a legacy to his younger brethren by one who has had half a century's experience. Sir John Forbes says that the art of healing, perpetually changing, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse, has yet, on the whole, made gradual though slow progress. The statistical records of nations, and the bills of mortality, prove this on the large scale with regard to the population of our own country, and the annals of medicine contain reports of not a few undoubted discoveries and improvements in medical practice. Still the progress is tardy, and such as it is has not always been due to regular practitioners. Sir John Forbes in a very candid and fair manner examines the claims of homœopaths to recent improvements in medical practice, and admits that in the department of regimen they have rendered good service. "In this point of view," he says, "regiminal homœopathy must be placed precisely on the same level as regiminal expectation, and both be regarded, in a therapeutic sense, as identical with the restorative operations of Nature assisted by regimen." At the same time he points out the absurdity of homœopaths ignoring the positive therapeutic aids supplied by medical science and professional experience.

Freida, the Jongleur, is a work of fiction of higher aim than the mass of contemporary novels. In the form of a romance the author has skillfully delineated some of the most noted events and peculiar characteristics of a remarkable epoch of history. The close of the thirteenth and the early part of the fourteenth century is the period in

which the tale commences, and some of the greatest personages of the time figure in the narrative. Among them are Philip le Bel, Charles Comte de Valois, Beatrix (Dante's Beatrice), James de Molai, Grand Master of the Templars, and Guy d'Auvergne, brother of the Prince de Dauphiny, with many others, who play conspicuous parts in the story, one fault of which is its being overcrowded with historical characters. The personal history of Freida, the Jongleur, one of an outcast, persecuted race, pagan in essence though in the heart of Christendom, in her early life, her adventures, and her conversion to the faith, is a representation of social and religious aspects of these times not commonly known. It was not till near the end of the fourteenth century that Lithuania was converted to Christianity, the Duke Jagello being an idolater until the year 1386, when he was baptized, with his court and multitudes of the people. Freida is represented as taking an active part in the work of conversion.

The tale of Gil Talbot, or Woman's Manœuvres and Man's Tactics, is a soldier's story, in so far as the chief characters are military men; but the incidents of love and attachment, of scheming and adventure, are all of the kind common to court and camp, and to every profession and condition of life. Claris, the heroine of the tale, will compel the interest of every reader; and some entertaining scenes and characters are sketched with liveliness and art.

Dr. Copland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine, one of the most important works yet presented to the profession, is now approaching its completion, the part last published, Part xviii., or Part ix. of Vol. iii., comprising articles on tubercular consumption, urine and urinary affections, uterus and uterine diseases, vaccination. One other number, we suppose, will complete the work, which will be a lasting monument of the learning and industry of the author, and a valuable contribution to the literature of practical medicine.

The treatise on the Care of the Sick, by Richard Barwell, Assistant-Surgeon to Charing-cross Hospital, was originally prepared as a course of practical lectures, delivered at the Working Women's College in Red Lion-square. It contains many sensible suggestions, and much useful information of a kind which ought to be widely diffused. Not merely professional nurses, but all who may be called to have charge of the sick, may be benefited by the perusal and study of Mr. Barwell's excellent manual. The appendix contains recipes for the diet of invalids, as well as a variety of directions for preparations useful in the sick room. The book is written in a plain popular style, and is a valuable contribution to the manuals of instruction on 'common things.'

New Editions.

Revelations of Prison Life, &c. By George Laval Chesterton. Third Edition. Hurst and Blackett.

THE new edition of Colonel Chesterton's *Revelations of Prison Life* appears opportunely, when public attention is compelled to the condition of the criminal population of this country. It is important at this juncture to have the testimony of the author of this work in favour of Mr. Charles Pearson's plan, as laid before the Parliamentary Committee in 1850, and recently urged in a letter noticed in our columns this week. Colonel Chesterton says on this point, "In the midst of the serious difficulties which have of late years beset the subject of secondary punishments by the impediments to transportation, I believe the best solution to have been offered by Mr. Charles Pearson. His scheme involves all that I have recommended, with the advantage of being self-sustaining; and it holds out the reasonable expectation of contributing to the pecuniary necessities of the State." Similar views have been lately strongly urged by Mr. Frederick Hill, in a paper 'On the Means of Freeing the Country from Dangerous Criminals,' published in the 'Law Amendment Journal' of the 25th December. "There are to be found," says Colonel Chesterton, "the reflections of a man of large experience, intelligence, and

discernment, who exposes the weakness of our criminal code, suggests a more vigorous administration, and affirms the desirableness and the duty of bearing ourselves the incubus of our national vices, instead of selfishly transplanting them into distant primitive communities." These statements are made in a new preface to the 'Revelations of Prison Life,' a work the remarkable contents of which we formerly reviewed on its first appearance.

Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

What is to be Done with our Criminals? By Charles Pearson Esq. Hall and Virtue.

The Scientific Character of the Scottish Universities viewed in connexion with Religious Belief, and their Educational Use. By William Brown, D.D. A. and C. Black.

The Opium Revenue of India. Allen and Co.

The Oude Question Stated and Considered. By William P. Hale, Esq. Smith and Co.

Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society. No. 6. E. Stanford.

Words of Comfort for Bereaved Parents. Edited by William Logan. Glasgow: Gallie and Love.

A New Theory of Astronomy deduced from the Latest Discoveries. Dublin: T. Dixon Hardy and Sons.

WHAT is to be Done with our Criminals? On this question of universal interest and national importance, no one is better entitled to be heard than Mr. Charles Pearson, the City solicitor, who has devoted long research to the subject, and possesses a knowledge as to the actual treatment of prisoners which few have had opportunity of gaining. Mr. Pearson reprints as a pamphlet his recent letter to the Lord Mayor, which appeared in 'The Times' newspaper, and also his speech on the same subject in the House of Commons, May 15, 1849, when he was member for Lambeth. The enormous extravagance and unwise leniency displayed at Reading Gaol, and in some other prison-palaces, are exposed by Mr. Pearson, who suggests more suitable and just treatment of criminals, without losing sight of the principles of humanity. By Mr. Pearson's plan the prisons could be self-supporting, and the comfort of the prisoners, and, to some extent, the duration of their confinement, could be made dependent on their industry and good conduct. At present the State actually throws away about a hundred millions of hours of confiscated labour, which the thirty thousand prisoners might be made annually to yield for useful purposes, without interfering with the labour market of the honest and industrious poor.

Professor William Brown's address on the Scientific Character of the Scottish Universities viewed in relation to their religious and educational aspects, was delivered as the introductory lecture to the students of the theological class. The lecturer deals with general questions of Scottish academic training, and with the special matters most concerning the class of students whom he was addressing. Topics which have given rise to no little controversy in Scotland, Dr. Brown passes under review with ability and moderation.

Preparatory to the discussion in Parliament of the Oude question, a statement has been drawn up by William Hale, Esq., Barrister-at-law, the purport of which is to protest against the annexation by the East India Company. Mr. Hale has given a lucid, and in many respects a fair statement of the case; but he carries his argument too far when he says that there was no necessity for English interference with the kingdom of Oude; and still more when he asserts that, when the rulers of Oude were left to themselves, the state of the country and the finances improved, and that when English interference meddled with the native polity, confusion and disappointment inevitably followed. When he quotes Mr. Mill's statement, made in 1831, as to the impolicy of interference, the condition of affairs of late years is left out of view, as well as the continued misgovernment of the country, and the improved administration of the Company's government. The circumstances that have led to the annexation, as declared by the late Governor-General, rendered that extreme step just and expedient; and the only matter for the British Parliament to take into consideration is the amount of compensation that is to be guaranteed to the late reigning family,

members of which have come to this country to lay their alleged grievances before the British Government. An appendix contains a translation of the letter written by Lord Hardinge in 1847 to the King of Oude, which is frequently referred to in the controversies and official papers on the subject. Mr. Hale's pamphlet is a special pleading for the late reigning family of Oude, but the historical statements will be read with interest, apart from the political questions at issue in the case.

Following out the excellent plan of publishing at short intervals, and in a form likely to increase the popular interest in their scientific labours, the Royal Geographical Society, in the sixth number of Proceedings, present a summary of all the recent discoveries and researches abroad, with abstracts of the papers read at the meetings during the months of November and December, 1856. Among the announcements are notices of the projected travels of Burton and of Baikie in Africa, and reports of the expeditions and explorations of Gregory and of Wilson in North Australia, Wallace and De Crespigny in Borneo, of Loftus in Assyria, of Poole in the region of the Dead Sea, a communication from Vogel on the ivory trade of Africa, and from Cyrus Field on the survey for the Atlantic telegraph. The Arctic explorations, in connexion with the renewed search for the remains of the Franklin expedition, occupied a large share of the attention of the Society at several of its meetings, and the proceedings on this subject will be read with deep interest, and ought to influence the determination of the Government to send an expedition to clear up the mystery, as well as to complete the scientific surveys on the narrower field now marked out by the experience of past years. If Government should decline to send out an official expedition, an appeal to the nation would provide the necessary means for carrying out an object in which the national honour and the interests of science as well as humanity are involved.

Sermons and treatises on consolation in trouble and sorrow abound, but the peculiarity of the little book published under the title of Words of Comfort for Bereaved Parents, edited by William Logan, is, that it consists of letters actually addressed to the parents of a beloved child whom they had lost. There is a warmth and freshness in these words of comfort not often found in more formal treatises on the subject. Appended are various passages extracted from well-known authors, specially applicable to the loss of young children. These extracts, confirmed by scripture texts, declare the doctrine of the salvation of all infants as one of the comforting truths of the Christian religion. Longfellow's lines on the reaper and the flowers appropriately conclude this selection of Words of Comfort for Bereaved Parents.

The new theory of Astronomy is of Irish origin, though it is not said to emanate from the university under the special patronage of St. Patrick and the other saints of that church which imprisoned Galileo for maintaining the Copernican theory. According to this author, astronomers have been deceived for the last three centuries, and recent discoveries have exploded the system of Laplace and Newton. The sun is not the centre of the solar system, but moves in an orbit outside that of the earth, at about ninety-five millions of miles from the earth, and therefore between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Suppose the sun to move between six and seven thousand miles, or the thirtieth part of his own diameter, in every second of time, this would not be enormous, according to the theorist; and this rate of motion would allow of the sun completing a circle outside the circle of the earth in about twenty-four hours. By this hypothesis of the sun moving in an orbit, various phenomena are accounted for as readily as on the Copernican theory of its being the central body of the planetary system. The ecliptic is in fact the real and not merely the apparent course of the sun, and he moves in this orbit, as he appears to do, from east to west every day, without turning on his axis. None of the celestial bodies, according to the author, turn on their axes, the theory of the earth doing

THE Executive Committee of the Art Treasures Exhibition of the United Kingdom, to be opened at Manchester in May, have decided on affording a space for the proposed collections, illustrative of Ancient and Medieval Arts and Manufactures, of 500 feet in length by 100 in breadth. The Committee have received assurances of co-operation in carrying out this very praiseworthy and important design from many quarters. Amongst those private collectors who have generously consented to contribute, may be named, the Earl of Warwick, Sir Anthony Rothschild, Bt., Alexander Beresford Hope, Esq., Richard Ford, the Earl of Amherst, the Earl of Cadogan, the Rev. Walter Sneyd, Henry Howard, Esq., of Corby Castle, Cardinal Wiseman, Charles Mills, Esq., Colonel Meyrick, of Goodrich Court, The Earl of Cawdor, Lord De Manley, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, The Earl Cowper, Edward Hailstone, Esq., General Lygon, Joseph Mayer,

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the Earl of Ellesmere, a nobleman whose name has long been honourably conspicuous as a patron of literature and of art, and who had gained for himself a respectable place in the literary as well as the political annals of his country. In November last he had been seized with a dangerous illness, from which he had latterly appeared to rally, but a relapse having taken place, he died on Wednesday at Bridgewater House. Francis Egerton, the first Earl of Ellesmere, of Ellesmere, county Salop, and Viscount Brackley, of Brackley, Northamptonshire, was born on the first day of January, 1800. He was the second son of George Granville, Marquis of Stafford, who was afterwards created Duke of Sutherland. His grandfather, the preceding Marquis of Stafford, had married the daughter, and eventually co-heir, of Scroope, the first Duke of Bridgewater, to whose estates the late Earl succeeded on the death of his father, assuming then the sole name of Egerton, in place of his patronymic of Leveson Gower. The Ellesmere peerage was a revival, having been first conferred on Thomas Egerton, Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of James I. The Chancellor was created Baron Ellesmere and Viscount Brackley, but died before the promised earldom was conferred, which James granted to his son under the title of Earl of Bridgewater. In the works of Bacon, as well as in the historical annals of the time, the name of Lord Ellesmere frequently appears; and a still more interesting literary association is, that his appointment to the Presidency of Wales and the Marches was the occasion of Milton writing his masque of *Comus*. The fourth Earl of Bridgewater was created Duke in 1790, the ducal title becoming extinct in 1808.

Esq., of Liverpool, Danby Seymour, Esq., M.P., E. Waterton, Esq., W. Stirling, Esq., M.P., Lord Hastings, Samuel Addington, Esq., &c. &c. Such distinguished encouragement must ensure a rich museum of ornamental art; it is proposed, accordingly, with the large space at command, to form a collection which shall, to the fullest possible extent, serve to illustrate the progress or decline of each art, chronologically arranged. To carry out this important object, the Executive Committee are anxious to receive any information or assistance which the possessors of works of the classes required may kindly feel disposed to afford them. All expenses will be defrayed attending conveyance of any examples of art which may be entrusted for Exhibition, and the greatest care and precaution will be taken as regards packing and transit, for which there is a special department, under the superintendence of Mr. J. C. Deane; and everything will be placed, where such protection is desirable, beneath glass, and under lock and key, under the constant surveillance of trustworthy persons.

The Exhibition is to be opened early in May, and to be closed at the end of October. For a more definite notion of the nature and classification of the proposed museum, the reader is referred to the subjoined scheme issued under the direction of the Executive Committee.

HISTORICAL DIVISIONS.

Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, Byzantine, Romanesque, Mediæval, Renaissance (English and Continental), Louis XIV., XV., and XVI. The Nineteenth Century.

SECTIONAL DIVISIONS.

Sculpture (per se).—Single Figures or Groups, in Marble, Alabaster, Stone, Terra-cotta, Wood, Ivory, Bronze, &c., of every period.

Metal Work.—Military—Consisting of Armour and Arms, and objects appertaining to the chase. Ecclesiastical and Domestic—Works in Metal, alone, or in combination with Enamel; Damascene Work, Jewellery, &c.; in Gold, Silver, Steel, Bronze, Laten, Lead, &c.

Ceramic Art.—Pottery and Porcelain—Hispano-Moorish, Italian—Majolica, Raffaele Ware, Capo di Monte, Doccia, &c. French—Henri II. Ware, Palissy, Nevers, Sèvres, Chantilly, &c. German—Cologne, Nuremberg, Dresden, Berlin, Frankenthal, &c. Dutch—Chiefly Delft. English—16th and 17th centuries, Bow, Chelsea, Worcester, Swansea, &c. Swiss, Spanish, Portuguese, &c.—To the present century.

Enamels.—Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Byzantine, Italian, French (Limoges, from the 12th to the 17th century), German, &c.

Glass.—Venetian and German, illustrative principally of the 16th century; Bohemian, French, English, &c., to the present day.

Painted Glass.—Ecclesiastical and Domestic, chiefly of the Mediæval and Renaissance periods.

Furniture.—Ecclesiastical and Domestic, in stone, wood, marqueterie, Buhl, &c.

Mosaic Work.—Glass and Marble, chiefly Roman and Florentine, from the 13th century to the present day.

Jewellery.—Ecclesiastical and Personal, of the Anglo-Saxon, Celtic, Mediæval and Renaissance periods, down to the 19th century.

Textile Fabrics.—Tapestry, Embroidery, Lace, &c., Mediæval and Renaissance.

Works in Leather.—Ecclesiastical, Military, Domestic.

Ivory.—Carvings of every description, including those in bone, horn, walrus tooth, &c.

Glyphics.—Intaglios and Cameos, Mediæval, Renaissance, and Modern.

Lapidary's Art.—Cups, Tazas, &c., in any precious or fine stone.

Medallions, Seals, &c.

Where sufficient material is contributed, it is proposed to form sub-divisions, illustrative of the history of particular Arts, such as the Watchmaker's Art, the Locksmith's, the Cutler's, &c.

THE ORIENTAL MUSEUM.

This is intended to consist of any ornamental works in the various materials specified in the above Sectional Divisions, and in Lacquer, illustrative of Asiatic and North African taste.

The Executive Committee confidently hope that this important undertaking, destined to illustrate, in as instructive a form as possible, the manners and arts of bygone times, cannot fail to prove specially interesting to the Archaeologist. The Society of Antiquaries of London, the Archaeological Institute, with several other kindred Institutions, have cordially recognised its value and interest, and promised their friendly co-operation, tendering also the loan of antiquities from their museums. All who appreciate the historical interest, or the artistic beauty of the various relics of ancient and mediæval times, must cordially sympathise in the object contemplated.

Those persons, possessors of examples of art, or of choice antiquities available for the occasion, are requested to communicate at their earliest convenience with J. B. Waring, Esq., Superintendent of "The General Museum of Art," 100, Mosley-street, Manchester.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

PROFESSOR Owen will commence his course of lectures on the Osteology and Palæontology of the Mammalia, as Superintendent of the Natural History Departments of the British Museum, on Thursday next. They will be delivered in the theatre of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn-street, on each consecutive Thursday and Friday, during six weeks, at 2 o'clock.

The Fund subscribed by the Linnean Society for defraying the expenses attendant on the Society's removal to Burlington House amounts to 1006*l.* 6*s.*, contributed by 106 members. The subscription list includes twenty-four donations of 20*l.* each, and one of 50*l.*

A prize of 300*l.* has been offered by a gentleman, lately a member of the Bengal Civil Service, for the best treatise on the Vedanta, one of the systems of ancient Hindu philosophy. The treatise is to be written in German or French. The essays are to be lodged with the Royal Asiatic Society before April 1st, 1860, and Professor Lassen of Bonn, Dr. Windischmann of Munich, and Professor Max Muller of Oxford, are to be the examiners and adjudicators. The object is, to elicit treatises which will be of assistance to Christian missionaries in the East. Some years ago the same munificent donor put two sums of 500*l.* at the disposal of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, for essays on Christianity and Hinduism.

A pamphlet, under the title of 'Practical Scandinavianism,' is at present exciting unusual attention in the regions of the Baltic, and presents some points of historical as well as political interest. The dubious and complicated prospects of the succession to the Danish crown, it is well known, cause much anxiety to diplomatists. That Russia will ultimately gain paramount influence, if not actual territory, in the Scandinavian kingdoms is a growing belief, the continual expression of which paves the way for its fulfilment. The object of the pamphlet on Practical Scandinavianism is to propose that the reigning families of Denmark and Sweden and Norway should enter into an agreement of "reciprocal adoption" of succession, according to which the right to the throne, in default of the male line in either royal house, should devolve on the other, a scheme by which the chances of foreign interference would be lessened and a new bond of Scandinavian unity formed. The author of the pamphlet is Baron Blixen, a nobleman with large possessions in both countries, and, by his marriage with the Princess Augusta of Hesse, a brother-in-law of Prince Christian, the heir eventual of the Danish crown.

The first educational bill of the session has been introduced by Sir John Pakington. It differs from Lord John Russell's rejected scheme of last year, in being neither national nor compulsory, but local and permissive. It is, in fact, an attempt to effect a compromise between the voluntary, the secular, and the Government schemes. Manchester is the field on which the experiment is proposed first to be tried, as it has there taken its origin. The plan is to levy a local rate, to be applied to all schools, whether religious or secular, the only proviso in the former case being, that special doctrinal teaching shall be confined to distinct hours, so that no children may be compelled to learn creeds or catechisms to which their parents object. The existing management would as little as possible be interfered with. With the exception of the principle of a local rate, to be levied when voted by any town that desires to participate in the permissive act, there is little in Sir John Pakington's measure to distinguish it from the system in operation under the Privy Council. If the Government would give grants for schools for the

poorest classes, such as have been commonly called "ragged," or, more properly, industrial schools, all other education might be safely left to voluntary zeal and enterprise. Where rates are established, either for education or charity, free benevolence and industrious independence are checked.

Some weeks ago we noticed the formation of a new society, the Odontological, established for the scientific improvement of members of the dental profession. Another movement in the same direction is the institution of a College of Dentists of England, the inaugural meeting of which took place at the Hanover-square Rooms on Saturday. Educational colleges for dentists have been successfully founded in America and on the Continent; and the diplomas granted by them furnish a certain guarantee of professional capability in a branch of practice peculiarly open to dangerous empiricism. Mr. Robinson, president of the college, in his inaugural address, gave some interesting historical notices of dental surgery, with an account of the recent attempts to introduce a more scientific education for the profession.

The injunction against the sale of the Royal Panopticon of Science and Art, in Leicester-square, has been removed, and there is prospect of this fine building being again turned to some useful account. A nice point of law was involved in the decision of the Vice-Chancellor Kindersley dissolving the injunction. Under the terms of the charter of the Panopticon, the council, as trustees for the corporation, had power to sell, and also to mortgage. The question was, could the council grant a mortgage with power of sale? The Vice-Chancellor said that he did not consider a trustee could absolutely add power of sale when the charter only gave power to mortgage, though he admitted that, in practice, such a power was commonly assumed. But in the present instance, by acquiescence for several years in the assumed right, the plaintiff had debarred himself of the right of preventing sale.

It was stated recently that Count d'Escayrac, the Frenchman who was placed at the head of the expedition prepared by the Viceroy of Egypt to explore the sources of the Nile, had resigned or been removed from his post; but letters recently received from him in Paris represent that he still remains chief of the expedition, though some of the *savans* appointed to it have declined to act under his direction. Lieutenant Twyford, one of the English members of the expedition, has, say the letters in question, succeeded, in spite of the most formidable difficulties, in getting over the three great cataraacts of the Nile the two steamers, five dahabieh (large decked barges), and three smaller vessels, provided for the expedition. This operation was considered almost impossible, and Lieutenant Twyford's success in it is described as doing the highest honour to his scientific skill, his energy, and courage. At the second cataraet, in particular, the local authorities and his pilots declared that it was impossible to get the vessels over, and the Egyptian soldiers and sailors placed under his orders refused to assist him in what they considered the desperate attempt; but he paid no attention to the representations of the former, and he compelled his men to obey his orders, and the result was that he triumphed; but to do so, it is said that he required the assistance of four thousand men! On the 18th December he was within five days' sail of Dongolah-el-Adjous, and it was believed that he would have to remain there some months to repair the injury his vessels received in their terrible descent. Count d'Escayrac was at Cairo, and did not contemplate setting out to join Lieutenant Twyford before February.

The carved ivory situla, made by Bishop Bernard of Hildesheim, for the Emperor Otto III., about the close of the tenth century—a work of art almost unique, and of remarkable beauty, of which we gave a detailed description last week—was yesterday sold at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's rooms for 210*l.* Several other ivories, of great rarity and interest, were among the articles from Mr. Chaffers' collection, including a bone casket of the Byzantine epoch, 20*l.*; a diploma

of the fifth century, with carvings representing scenes from the Gospels, and figures of the four Evangelists, 231, 12s. 6d.; and a Roman ivory scriptum, of the second or third century, apparently a cash-box, or cabinet-box for valued objects, 80l. The well-known Shakespeare portrait, formerly in the collection of Talma, and bought at the sale of his effects, 22nd March, 1827, said formerly to have belonged to Queen Elizabeth, 21l. 10s.; it is fastened on by means of small pegs to one of the sides of a pair of bellows of Elizabethan antiquity, with curious legends carved on the rude frame. In the Egyptian department of the collection were some fine specimens of early enamel, one of which, apparently the handle of a sceptre or dagger, sold for 7l. A bronze of Isis, seated, with Horus on her lap, and hieroglyphics, 5l. 6s. Among the Greek relics the most attractive specimen was an antique marble figure of a youth, said to be Narcissus, of exquisite proportions and finely executed, twenty-three inches in height, from Herculaneum, 29l. A Roman bronze stylus, surmounted by a figure of Venus, from General Ramsay's collection, 6l. 6s. There were also sold at high prices some fine and rare specimens of mediæval art. A silver-gilt chalice of the fourteenth century, 9l.; a silver-gilt hanap, or old English drinking-cup, 6l. 8s. 6d.; a net, or ship of the sixteenth century, with elaborate rigging, figures, &c., one of the vessels used as table ornaments for receiving alms, 15l.

The subject of human longevity has lately undergone no little public discussion, partly arising out of the ingenious theory recently propounded by M. Flourens of the French Institute. Several works have appeared containing large collections of reported cases, but many of these have been received with scepticism, and it is admitted that the means of obtaining accurate statistics have generally been defective. The 'Northern Daily Express' lately recorded the death of the oldest inhabitant of Hexham, John Bell, at the age of 110. No baptismal register or official document attests this age, but he is known to have been the eldest of ten children, the youngest of whom was born in 1761, the year of the Hexham riots noted in the history of the north. The older brother used to say that he was ploughing on the day of the fight. His name may safely be added to the catalogue of those who have outlived the century which Flourens describes as the normal period of the human race, when unaffected by deteriorating influences. In a letter to a contemporary journal, it has been stated that a search in the records of all the principal insurance companies in this country, suggested by these discussions, discloses the fact that the oldest life on which a policy has yet been paid is ninety-seven, once by the Amicable and once by the Pelican companies; one case of ninety-six is reported by the Royal Exchange company, and other insurance offices have had eight cases above ninety years of age.

The Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg has resolved to publish a weekly account of its proceedings and deliberations, similar to the *Comptes Rendus* of the Academy of Sciences of Paris.

The French Government some time back decreed that a new member should be added to the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of Paris, and the Academy has just selected M. Horace Say, the eminent economist, as the new member.

The widow of the great French botanist, De Jussieu, has just died at Paris, at the advanced age of ninety. The Government for many years kindly allowed her to occupy apartments in the Jardin des Plantes.

It is known that M. de Lamartine, in order to repair his dilapidated fortunes, and even to retain possession of the house of his ancestors, lately allowed an appeal to be made to his countrymen for subscriptions to his 'Cours Familier de Littérature.' The appeal was warmly responded to, not, however, perhaps, quite so warmly as the distinguished poet was entitled to expect. Knowing that great admiration was felt for him and his works in the United States, his friends despatched

an agent there to solicit subscriptions. Within the last few days this agent has reported that he has thus far attained great success, and that he confidently expects still greater. He is strongly supported, he adds, by Washington Irving, Bancroft, Bryant, Everett, Prescott, Longfellow, and Tienkon; also by many eminent politicians.

We mentioned some time ago that the family of the late King Louis Philippe had instituted a lawsuit against a M. Vallete of Paris, to obtain from him three volumes of a manuscript history, by the late King, of the House of Bourbon, and the great aristocratic families of France; such history being intended as a continuation of one published some hundred years ago by a certain Father Anselm. The ground on which the royal family of Orleans based its suit was, that the manuscript in question must have been taken from the palace of the Tuileries in the pillage in the Revolution of 1848; and that therefore it was not the legitimate property of M. Vallete. But that gentleman maintained that the manuscript was not the one in question, but the rough notes from which it had been prepared; and that the said notes had been given by the late King's librarian to one of his friends, and purchased by him (Vallete) at the sale by auction of that friend's effects. The Civil Tribunal, finding that the Orleans family could give no proof of their allegation, and could not disprove that of Vallete, dismissed the action.

Messrs. Hachette and Co., the eminent Paris publishers, are now publishing a complete and uniform translation of the works of Dickens; it is the first that has been attempted in France, the translations that have hitherto appeared being only of isolated works, and for the most part by incompetent hands. In a short address, in French and English, prefixed to the first volume (which, by the way, is 'Nicholas Nickleby'), Mr. Dickens expresses his high approval of the translation Messrs. Hachette have caused to be made, and he cordially recommends it to the French public. In his address he declares that "he is proud to be presented to the great French people, whom he loves and honours sincerely, and whose judgment and suffrage are an object of ambition for all who cultivate letters."

An edition of the entire works of Marnix de Sainte Alegonde is now preparing for publication, under the inspection and patronage of several of the highest statesmen and most celebrated men of letters in Belgium. Marnix de Sainte Alegonde was born in Brussels in 1538, and valiantly fought both with sword and pen in the cause of his country's freedom. The present edition will be brought out in six volumes, the first four of which will contain the "Tableaux des différends de la religion," and the last two a satire written in the Flemish language, and entitled "Byenckor der Roomsche Kereke." A French explanation of the satire will be given, as well as an introduction, and valuable historical notes, by Monsieur Edgard Quinet.

A new map of the Caspian Sea has just been published in St. Petersburg. It was made by Lieutenant Jwatschintson, a naval officer in the Russian service, who was employed by the government to take soundings and examine the shores of this important lake. According to his measurement, the Caspian sea covers an area of three hundred and fifty-two thousand square versts. Its greatest length is six hundred and fifty geographical miles, and the extreme breadth three hundred miles.

The first number of a new scientific periodical, entitled 'Kosmos,' has just appeared in Vienna, under the editorship of Dr. Reclam, of Leipsic. It is a work of great merit, and contains, besides, two large sheets, many additional coloured illustrations as an appendix. In beauty of execution these have never been surpassed in any periodical. The price of the work is a thaler and a half, or four and sixpence of our money, quarterly.

A celestial globe, once the property of the poet Schiller, has been presented as a new year's gift, to add to the museum of reminiscences of the poet which have been collected together in his

house in Weimar. It was found in the village of Oggersheim, where the poet once concealed himself. This, with the terrestrial globe, passed from the hands of Schiller's servants into those of Herr Eberhard, who held an official situation under the government in Oggersheim, and afterwards came into the possession of Herr Henck, of Landau, who generously placed them in the poet's house in Weimar. Both globes are in good preservation, and are probably the work of Franzel of Mannheim, made in 1749, ten years before Schiller's birth.

The excavations which have of late been carried on in the Acropolis of Athens have brought to light several interesting remains. Amongst them is the bronze foot of a lion (two others of which had already been found in 1835), innumerable fragments of statuettes of Diana, Minerva, Apollo, &c., made of baked clay, and evidently of Egyptian origin; there were also portions of large statues and broken columns, shattered inscriptions, and lamps of various shapes and sizes. The excavations have been carried on at the expense of the Queen of Greece, and have now reached a depth of about ten feet.

A learned Hungarian gentleman is on the eve of making a journey to Central Asia, to make researches into the root and origin of the Magyar people. His project has been taken up warmly by his countrymen, and considerable sums of money, and, indeed, help of all kinds has been freely given to him by his friends and well wishers.

The last number of the Weimar 'Jahrbuch' (Book of the Year), by Hoffmann von Fallersleben, contains many excellent papers. Students of old German literature will find much that is interesting; amongst other things, a history of ancient German church music, the dictionary of Erasmus Alberus, and a beautiful play of William Tell, published in 1548, by Augustin Fries, in Zurich. Besides these curiosities, there is a reminiscence from the romantic period of German literature, by Karl Mayer, in which most interesting information is given about the poet Uhland, his early literary efforts and his youthful friends. The value of the 'Jahrbuch' is increased by notices of Chamisso, Goethe, Wieland, &c., and many letters are given from Jacobi, Merck, Goethe, Schiller, Wieland, Haydn, Beethoven, and Grimm, &c.

Sigismund Külle, a German missionary on the west coast of Africa, has just presented to the library of the University of Tübingen, his native town, four works, which he has, with great labour and considerable knowledge, compiled on the African languages. These books include a grammar, dictionary, and a collection of different African idioms. One of them is entitled 'Polyglotta Africana,' and contains one hundred and eighty-eight pages, with about three hundred words and phrases in one hundred different dialects.

Dr. Bock of Cologne, an antiquary of considerable celebrity, is about to bring out a descriptive and historical catalogue of the coronation insignia and jewels of the German emperors, which are kept in the treasure-chamber of Vienna. Dr. Bock combines a profound knowledge of archæology and history with a fluent and popular style of writing, so that it is likely his work will be equally interesting to the antiquary and the general reader.

M. Stanislas Julien, the eminent French Orientalist, has just bought, under the title 'Mémoires sur les Contrées Occidentales,' the first volume of a translation of a curious Chinese account of the countries of Western Europe, written so far back as the year 648 of the Christian era, by one Hiouen Thsang.

The Marquise de la Rochejaquelein, author of the famous memoirs on the civil war in La Vendée, which are not only a standard work in France, but have been translated into every language in Europe, has just died at an advanced age.

An international treaty, for the mutual protection of literature and works of art, has just been concluded between the French government and the senate of Frankfort-on-the-Maine.

The French government does not relax in its severity towards the press. A bi-monthly magazine,

called the 'Revue de Paris,' has been suspended for a month, for the publication of an article considered offensive to the King of Prussia; it is also under prosecution for other articles.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

[Second Notice.]

A CONSPICUOUS place amongst the very numerous figure subjects in this year's exhibition is occupied by the gay and lively groups contributed by Mr. T. M. Joy. *X. Y. Z. at the Post-office* (211) and *X. Y. Z. at Home* (236) not only attract the most careless eye, but remain fixed in the recollection by the force of expression and vigorous colouring. Very pretty, too, is the group of *Brighton Diamonds* (470). *Love's Stratagem* (341) is another of these attractive studies, rather slightly painted, but full of character and spirit.

Mr. F. Underhill is scarcely up to the mark of past years in either of his subjects. *Waiting for the Ferry* (174), the more important of the two, is a clever and thoughtful composition, but the figures do not harmonize, and the colour is dull. *The Music of the Shell* (309) is original in no one respect. A child seated in such a dress as this on the sea-shore is an impossibility in fact, and yet the figure is studied too closely from nature to be ideal; it exhibits, however, those qualities which attest the general superiority and excellence of this artist's works.

A picture which attracts as much attention, and is as amusing as any in the rooms, is the scene of *Molière Reading his Comedies to his Housekeeper* (458), by T. P. Hall. Every one who looks at all beyond the expression of this scene—which is most forcible—is gratified also by the extreme accuracy and success with which a variety of rich textures has been painted. Furniture, articles of dress, leather, satin, frills, lace, books, are all touched with equal firmness and exactness of handling. The scene wants air and depth to be absolutely perfect in point of technical skill. As to expression, the laughter of La Forêt is side-shaking and irresistible, the humour of the author exquisitely rendered, and the figures behind the screen pretty; but we cannot extend our admiration to the good taste of the scene. Being a French subject, it seems to have been thought necessary to invest it with all the grimace of a second-rate French actor, who sacrifices the truth and harmony of nature in order to effect a sensation. Notwithstanding its merits as a painting, and the forcible way in which it appeals to the eye, this scene is not free from a taint of affectation and vulgarity.

If we turn to Mr. Haylar's picture, called *Frolicsome Fellows Paying Off an Old Score* (154), we find a confessedly rustic merrymaking treated with humour and effect. It will not bear comparison with Mr. T. P. Hall's picture in style or in pictorial merit, but its heartiness and truth are more engaging, though the subject is nothing better than a ring of country fellows tossing another in a blanket.

Mr. Dicksee contributes one of his delightful studies of children in *A Little Scarecrow* (525); and Frank Wyburd one of his delicately-finished female figures in the subject, *Janet Foster* (507). Nor should we omit Mr. Le Jeune's study of elegant but placid expression, with something of the cool grey tints of Murillo in the drapery, *Thy Will be Done* (416).

A number of minor subjects we must class together. A small graceful study of a robed female with two sleeping infants is called *Night* (409), by E. T. Parris; Mr. J. P. Drew's figures, *A Country Boy* (169) and *A Gipsy Girl* (410), have all his peculiarities of colour; and a pretty interior scene by T. Earl, *The Ovalle* (199), may be noticed.

In this department of "Interiors" an increasing taste may be observed. That of a *Welsh Farm-house* (265), by Provis, is one of the best in the rooms; and an *English Interior* (186) may be compared with a similar scene in Kent (129), by R. Elmore. There is, however, too much affectation in the occupation of the figures in the latter view.

Finally, a *Cottage Interior* (9), by Wingfield, is noticeable for careful and bright rendering.

A subject, called *Gems of the Sea* (554), by H. C. Selous, displays some excellent painting, particularly of the pearly translucent shells which the fish-girl is displaying to her customers; and is treated with good taste throughout. An allegorical subject of *Infancy Sleeping at the Entrance of the Valley of Tears* (312), by Miss Jessie M'Leod, embodies some elegant poetical thoughts; and the subject, *Too Late* (110), by Henry Naish, supposed to convey some hint of the bereavements occasioned by war, has formed the subject of an engraving in this year's 'Keepsake.'

A *Village Incident* (110), by J. H. Dell, deserves notice, not for its figure drawing, which is far from being perfect, but for a series of humorous contrasts. Upon an ancient village cross is fixed a modern street lamp, and to the carvings at the base of the former is strangely assimilated the form of a drum, which stands on the ground close by, having served to attract notice to a performance of acrobats, who, in strange costumes and with angular, disjointed frames, are standing amidst the gaping villagers. A scene by W. Hemeley (359), in like manner, illustrates some touches of country humour. *The Wager* (402), by Louis Huard, French alike in sentiment and treatment, seems to represent a rivalry between two country girls, as to their respective personal advantages—a subject of some humour but of questionable taste. *The Night March* (360), by J. T. Hixon; *Pretty Polly* (496), by E. J. Cobbett; *Maiden Meditation* (416), by E. Havell, have each their claims upon attention; and among some good studies are *A Chelsea Pensioner* (49), by J. Bowles; *Meditation* (240), by F. Weekes; and a *Group of Children's Faces* (296), by G. Smith. *Tell your Fortune* (248), by H. H. Martin, is a smart picture of a young Spanish woman, coquettishly posed, with rather wooden legs; and *The Monopolist* (129), by P. R. Morris, is cleverly painted. The expression of the boys' faces in *A Music Lesson* (506), by E. Hopley, is forcible and amusing.

Going to the Ball (119), and *A Young Lady at her Devotions* (472), in the German style, by S. B. Halle, though not inferior as paintings, will find few admirers from their hard flat manner of treatment. The latter lady prays in an elaborate costume, and with a pleasant simper on her lips.

Lunching Scene in the Highlands (26), by Bottomey, and H. Hall's *Happy Joe* (140), appeal to the sportsman and sporting-man class of the community, not without effect.

Mr. G. Earl's *Dead Deer* (77) is a praiseworthy study; but Mr. Sidney Cooper is still unrivalled in his *Cattle Shed* (193), and G. Landseer excels in his excellent painting of an *Italian Boy and Monkey* (358).

We next proceed to landscape, and here we find some of the old names reappearing with undiminished force. Boddington contributes *A Summer Morning on the Thames* (289) in the manner peculiar to him; Mr. Jutsum is also excellent in his *Devonshire Coast* (3) and *Hayfield* (197); Mr. Branwhite is true also to nature in the *Tranquil Stream, N. Wales* (178); and G. A. Williams in the *View near Sonning* (89) and the *Farm near Twyford* (562). Mr. Hardwick has extended his travels to Padua, and gives a transcript of that ancient city (200); and Mr. Frank Dillon contributes a bit of *Cairo* (280). Amongst English remains of antiquity we have once more a *Tintern Abbey* (11), by W. Callow; a *Kirkstall Abbey* (270), painted with more than usual skill, by G. C. Stanfield; an *Ancient Archway, Langley Abbey* (281), by S. D. Swarbrick; and the *Ruins of Dunstanborough Castle* (162), by S. P. Jackson.

A special note of commendation should be made of the scene on the *Coast of Amalfi* (310), by Harry J. Johnson. Atmosphere and distance are as yet wanting; but these are refinements which prolonged observation and practice only can give. The powers of this artist are yet undeveloped; his painting is careful, yet not painfully laboured; it is free from many prevailing conventionalities, and being original and forcible without affectation, it promises great things.

Mediterranean Pirates preparing to Attack (351), by J. Danby, and some sparkling sea-pieces by Mr. E. Hayes, A.R.H.A., *Dutch Boats of Amsterp* (10), and *Amsterp from the New Pier* (352), are amongst the best marine views in the collection.

Mr. C. J. Lewis's *Love-Letter* (254) must rank among the landscapes, being in the style of Goodall, with some pretty figures, a cottage scene, and a thicket of brightly-painted garden flowers.

Leith Hill (465), by G. Cole, is a landscape with the longest reach of distance of any in the room. There is something inspiring in this vast extent of rich, undulating country, fading away through delicate gradations of purple in the distant horizon.

Amongst the minor pieces, a *View of Chagford, Devon* (467), by T. J. Soper, is bright in colour; *Venice—Sunset* (468), by Clement Burlison, exhibits strange effects of evening light; and *On the Thames* (471), by G. W. Sant, is an attempt to rival the sharpness and multiplicity of a photograph.

The architectural sketches of L. J. Wood—*Place Cordelier, Dinan, Brittany* (216), *Church of St. Etienne, Rouen* (433), and particularly the *Church of St. Pierre, etc., Auxerre* (500), are of their wonted excellence.

Besides Miss Mutrie's admirable *Cactus, etc.* (295), we notice an almost equally excellent painting of *Rhododendrons and other Flowers* (196), by Mrs. Rimer. *The Fern-Case* (406), by W. Galt, is a study both of botanical and of figure subjects, displaying much to admire in either branch of pictorial representation.

The Emperor Napoleon has contributed for pictures to this year's exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy at Edinburgh. *The Charge to St. Peter*, by Ingres; *A Jewish Wedding in Morocco*, by Eugene Delacroix; *The Barrière de Clichy, or the Defence of Paris in 1814*, by Horace Vernet; and *The Young Princes in the Tower of London*, by the late Paul Delaroche. Excepting Delaroche, these French modern masters are little known in Scotland, and the pictures now sent by the liberality of the Emperor are fine specimens of their works. A small picture of Ary Scheffer is also among the contributions to the exhibition. Last year the Scottish artists had the opportunity of studying one of the masterpieces of Meissonier and several specimens of the talent of Rosa Bonheur.

The second number of Kaulbach's 'Illustrations of Shakespeare' has within the last few weeks been given to the public; this number contains only two plates, but they are extremely clever, and do full justice to the great talent and genius of their author, who is acknowledged to be the greatest painter of the day in Germany. The play which Kaulbach has selected for illustration in the number before us is the *Tempest*, and the subjects taken from the first and second scenes in the third act. The figures in the first plate are those of *Prospero*, *Miranda*, and *Ferdinand*. *Ferdinand* is bearing a log of wood, from the end of which springs beautiful foliage, ivy and rose branches with flowers and buds, intended to look as if they had twined round it when living. *Miranda* is leaning forward, trying to take the log of wood from *Ferdinand*, who resists her. "No, precious creature,

"I had rather crack my sinews, break my back,
Than you should such dishonour undergo
While I sit lazy by."

The effect of the oak-leaves and ivy is extremely good, but the introduction of the flowers of the wild rose is unnatural, as such frail and fleeting blossoms could not have retained any freshness, but must have withered away and disappeared in the time necessary to hew down and chop up such forest trees. *Ferdinand's* figure is easy in attitude, but, as *Miranda* is placed on a step above him and bending forward, he looks hardly tall enough, and in comparison with the rare beauty of *Miranda* becomes almost insignificant. *Prospero* stands in a doorway at a little distance, drawing back a curtain. Over the portal stand two peacocks, the plumage of one of which falls over it, adding to the grace and richness of the accessories. These are all very beautiful and exquisitely engraved. A

luxuriant palm-tree drops its feathery leaves above the heads of the lovers, whilst fruit, flowers, and foliage enrich the foreground, on which lie the ready-cut logs of wood; the distaff and spindle of *Miranda* are on the ground, as if suddenly thrown aside. The sea is visible in the distance, but little is seen of it except in one corner of the picture, where the waves ripple gently along the shore. Spirits float gracefully through the air with lyres in their hands, and a little Cupid lurks roguishly in the branches of the palm-tree. A tear falls on *Miranda's* cheek; her face is full of expression, and her figure very graceful and lovely. In the second plate *Kaulbach* introduces *Caliban*, *Stephano*, and *Trinculo*, with *Ariel* hovering in the air. These figures are very forcibly drawn and beautifully engraved. The contrast between the hideous ugliness of *Stephano*, *Trinculo*, and *Caliban*, and the exquisite grace and beauty of *Ariel* and his attendant spirits, is wonderfully conceived and powerfully executed. *Ariel* is represented winged, full of lightness, movement, and spirit, and in the attitude reminding one of the celebrated statue in Florence, of Mercury, by John of Bologna; both arms are raised above his head, and in one hand *Ariel* holds a wand of lilies, his lips are open as if divine melody were breathing from them. Other figures of angels or spirits hover around him, all in various attitudes, and some with instruments of music; some like elves, or fairies, with bat-like wings, are pointing with gleeful mischief to the group below. The imagination displayed in the variety and beauty of these figures is wonderful. *Caliban* has the tail of a fish, and fin-like wings over the back, which fall between his legs; sea hedgehogs and various amphibious monsters are crawling about; and the whole scene on the shore, in its fantastic ugliness, is in harmony with the characters that people it, and is full of vigour and power. Each number of these illustrations is accompanied by an explanatory pamphlet, by Moritz Carrière, on the genius and character of Shakespeare's plays.

It is stated in the French papers that a painting by Giotto, representing the Virgin kissing the infant Jesus, has just been discovered in the shop of a dealer in marine stores, at Saint Jean du Gard, in France. It is represented to be in good preservation, and is supposed to have been executed by Giotto at the beginning of the fourteenth century, when he was residing at Avignon, in attendance on Pope Clement V., who removed the seat of the Papal see from Rome to that city.

The King of Prussia has given orders to the Berlin sculptor, Herr Assinger, to make a bust in marble of Ernst Moritz Arndt, the Nestor of the professors of Bonn. It is to be placed in the University library of that collegiate town, amongst the other portraits of celebrated teachers and learned or distinguished men, who have been educated at, or connected with, the University.

Monsieur Wuyts, a wine merchant of Antwerp, who has lately died, has bequeathed to his native town, in his will, his very valuable collection of pictures, which contains *chefs d'œuvres* of Rubens, Teniers, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, &c. The widow of Monsieur Wuyts is to retain the gallery of pictures during her lifetime.

The Emperor of Austria has ordered that a monument to Leonardo da Vinci shall be erected at Milan, and that his fresco, in the Convent delle Grazie, in that city, representing *The Lord's Supper*, shall be restored.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The main defect of Mr. Westland Marston's dramatic productions is paucity of action. It is not that his pieces are deficient in what may be called story, but that the story is not dramatic, and cannot be put into effective movement on the stage. His last piece, *A Life's Ransom*, produced at the Lyceum on Monday night, will not advance his reputation in this respect. It would make a capital tale, or, with a skilful filling-up of auxiliary details, might be successfully expanded into a

novel. But although it yields two or three striking situations, the plot is too loose and attenuated for the class of drama to which Mr. Marston's poetical ambition justly aspires. The interest is scattered; it frequently changes its ground during the progress of the play; and the whole is wanting in unity and completeness. The time chosen is the close of the reign of James II., which affords the requisite *Deus ex machina*, at some cost of historical accuracy. A certain Lord *Revesdale*, whose family have been impoverished by their devotion to the Stuarts, is so ungratefully treated by the court that he joins the conspiracy for inviting the Prince of Orange to England. His fortunes are reduced to the last extremity; his estates are about to be sold; and he is, consequently, in a fit condition to be worked upon for sinister purposes by a Mr. *Bancroft*, the "villain" of the piece. Lord *Revesdale's* sister, *Felicia*, is attached to Arthur *Ringwood*, the son of a wealthy brewer; and Arthur has secretly arranged with his father to purchase up the *Revesdale* property, for the purpose of keeping it in the family. Mr. *Bancroft*, who is a magistrate, and a supporter of James II., and who, for some inexplicable reason, nurses a direful project of destruction against both *Revesdale* and *Ringwood*, instils into the mind of the former the worst suspicions of the motives and conduct of the latter. *Revesdale* forbids the marriage; but *Felicia* is resolved. In this extremity *Bancroft* hints to the infuriated lord that *Ringwood* has dishonoured his sister; upon which *Revesdale*, in a burst of passion, betrays the secret of *Ringwood's* life—that he had formerly been engaged in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. This discovery supplies *Bancroft* with the means of revenge he had long desired. He immediately causes *Ringwood* and *Felicia*, who have just been married, to be arrested, and put into prison. It is now *Revesdale's* turn to influence the tide of events. Full of remorse for having betrayed the confidence of his friend, he offers to reveal to *Bancroft* the name of a leading conspirator on the Orange side, if he will liberate his prisoners. *Bancroft*, consents, as might naturally be expected—an Orange partisan at that moment being a person of much more importance to the state than an adherent of the dead Monmouth. The conspirator, of course, is *Revesdale* himself. At this crisis, when the fluctuating destiny of the play is apparently about to crush the weak and vibrating lord, the Prince of Orange arrives; a grand tableau discloses the brilliant scene of his landing on the English coast, and, as may be anticipated, everybody is made as happy as the most ardent play-goer can desire—except excellent Mr. *Bancroft*. It will be seen at once that this plot presents no central point of interest. There is suspense and excitement, such as would have furnished a good three-act piece of the "domestic" order, briefly and rapidly treated. But the material is wholly unfit for a five-act play. It has neither the solidity nor the intensity necessary to fill so large a space, or to sustain the pomp and formality of the "legitimate" drama. The first two acts are simply superfluous. The action does not begin till the third. With the exception of Arthur *Ringwood* and his father, who are sound and healthy specimens of Englishmen, and *Felicia*, an unexceptionable heroine, there is not a character in the piece upon which the mind can dwell with satisfaction. Lord *Revesdale* lacks firmness and consistency; and his miserable pride only serves to render his moral weakness the more conspicuous. Mr. *Bancroft* is merely the common stage scoundrel without any adequate motive. These are obvious faults; but the play has decided merits in other directions. Making some allowance for a little excess in the way of fine writing, the dialogue is nervous, and always equal to the height of the occasion. There are several passages of remarkable power, and some scenes so admirably conceived and developed as to draw down repeated marks of enthusiastic approbation. Indeed, we have seldom witnessed a greater success than the reception of this play; and we have no doubt that it will continue to attract large audiences for many a week to come. Setting aside purely critical objections, the piece possesses that

sort of romantic interest which always ensures a term of popularity. The acting, especially that of Mr. and Mrs. Dillon, in the characters of Lord *Revesdale* and *Felicia*, was generally excellent. Mr. Barret's *Matthew Ringwood* was a perfect picture of a honest country gentleman of the latter part of the 17th century, and Mr. M'Lean played the lover with spirit and earnestness. The *Bancroft* of Mr. Stuart would be improved if that energetic actor would abate the relish with which he seems to enjoy the villainy of the part. If Mr. *Bancroft* had worn his designs so palpably on his sleeve, he would have defeated his own object.

The season of the Royal Italian Opera is to commence at Drury Lane, under the management of Mr. Gye, on the 14th of April. The first concert of the New Philharmonic Society is announced to take place on Wednesday, April 1st, in the Hanover Square Rooms, Dr. Wyld, conductor. It is expected that the new St. James's Music Hall, now being erected, will be ready for the second concert, the Society having taken a five years' lease of the Hall.

Mr. Costa's *Eli* was performed at Exeter Hall on the 13th inst., by the Sacred Harmonic Society, and is to be repeated on Friday evening. Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* was given in a most effective manner at St. Martin's Hall, under Mr. Hullah's direction, on Wednesday evening, although the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves from indisposition weakened the performance. Madame Rudersdorff, Miss Moss, and Mr. Thomas, sustained the principal vocal parts, Mr. J. Williams being the tenor substitute for Mr. Reeves.

Madam Grisi, Herr Formes, and Mr. Tennant have been singing at the Edinburgh Subscription Classical Concerts, and an operatic company has been performing at the Theatre Royal of the same city, including M. and Madame Cassier, Signori Kinni and Volpini—Signor Li Calsi, conductor.

M. Melesville, an author of repute, has produced this week, at the Théâtre Français at Paris, a comedy in two acts, entitled *Un Vers de Virgile*. The subject of it is very simple. An Austrian noble, compromised in the last revolution, leaves to an old pedagogue, *Claudius* by name, a copy of his *Virgil*, with an indication that one line of it sets forth where a treasure of 800,000 florins is buried. The pedagogue passes day and night in studying the precious volume, but cannot hit on the line referred to. At length one of his pupils makes a bungling translation of the famous line—

Titire tu patula recubans sub tegmine fagi.

—A sudden inspiration seizes him—he recollects a certain tree in the park—digs under it, and there finds the treasure reposing. Become rich, he is able to marry his beautiful daughter to another pupil, the man of her heart. The main idea of the play is, it will be seen, not very grand, and the manner in which it is worked out is not remarkable, but the piece is capitally acted. Regnier in particular, as the pedagogue, is equal to himself in the part of the old servant, in *La joie fait peur*,—and it is not easy to give him higher praise. The acting will consequently most likely secure it a long career of success.

The King of Prussia has just presented the well-known actor Herr Emil Devrient with a gold snuff-box, in recognition of his pleasure and satisfaction with the artist's acting in Berlin. The box is ornamented with the Prussian eagle in relief. Herr Devrient had refused to receive any payment when performing before the king, considering the honour of the invitation as a sufficient remuneration.

A new comedy, by Hermann Grimm, son of the great German lexicographer, has just been brought out at the theatre in Berlin: it is entitled, *The Lost Game*, and contains but three characters. It is full of beauty of expression and language, but is a little too stiff for popular acting.

A tale has been going the rounds of the Continental press to the effect that Liszt, the eminent pianist, had turned monk of the Franciscan order. Jules Janin, in his last *feuilleton* of the *Journal des Débats*, positively contradicts the truth of the story, and does so on the authority of a letter from the pianist himself. Liszt is at Weimar, where he continues to occupy the post of chapel-master

to the Grand Duke; and he is engaged in composing an oratorio, a cantata, a symphony, and other works.

Madame Winther, a lady from Copenhagen, whose pursuits are principally musical, has lately discovered in the library at Venice several most interesting MSS. of the composer Alessandro Stradella. The profane and sacred music which these sheets contain is remarkable for its great purity of style and depth of expression. Herr Rung, of Copenhagen, has already published a canzonet taken from the newly-discovered MSS.

Madame Formes, wife of the tenor singer, Theodore Formes, and one of the principal actresses at the royal theatre of Berlin, is just dead.

LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Feb. 12th.—W. R. Grove, Esq., V.-P., in the chair. A paper was read 'On the Photography of the Moon,' by W. Crookes, Esq. The author having received a grant of money from the Donation Fund of the Royal Society, has devoted considerable time to the difficult process of procuring good photographs of the moon. The telescope in which the lunar pictures were taken is the magnificent equatorial at the Liverpool Observatory. The author conceives that his success in obtaining dense negatives in about four seconds is due to the great purity of the chemical materials which he employed. After describing the *modus operandi* of taking the picture, he states that the glass employed for the original negative of the moon was "extra white colour patent plate," and that for the intermediate positives and large negatives ordinary patent plate. The soluble paper for the collodion was prepared in the following manner:—

Commercial Nitrous acid	Sp. gr. 1.43	4 fluid oz.
Nitric acid	" 1.37	4 "
Sulphuric acid	" 1.82	8 "

The collodion was made with—Ether (Sp. gr. 725), previously freed from acid by rectification from dry caustic potassa, 5 fluid ounces; absolute alcohol, 3 fluid ounces; soluble paper (dried at 100 cent.), 50 grains; iodide of cadmium (pure) 30 grains. The alcohol and ether were mixed together, and then the paper and iodide of cadmium were added,—they dissolved in a few minutes with a little shaking. As soon as the solution was complete it was allowed to stand for twenty-four hours, and then half of the clear supernatant fluid was decanted carefully into a clean well-stoppered bottle for use. The author believes that collodion prepared in this manner will keep for many years. The nitrate of silver bath was made by dissolving one ounce of crystallized nitrate of silver, perfectly pure and neutral, in two ounces of water, then, with constant stirring, adding a solution of four grains of iodide of cadmium in one ounce of water, and a quarter of an ounce of the above iodized collodion and water to make up the volume to ten ounces. This was allowed to stand for a few hours at a temperature of about 25° cent., and then filtered from the undissolved iodide of silver and precipitated paper. A glass bath was used in preference to gutta percha. The developing solution consisted of—

Pure pyrogallie acid	8 grains
Crystallized citric acid	" 16 "
Water	5 fluid oz.
Alcohol	8 "

This developing solution is very slow in its action, fifteen to twenty minutes being frequently required, but it ultimately produces negatives of such vigour and freedom from stains that Mr. Crookes much prefers it to that made according to the usual formula. The fixing solution employed was the ordinary nearly saturated solution of hyposulphate of soda. After using it, the pictures were well and carefully washed in warm water, dried before a fire, and, after scratching the description or name on a corner, varnished with the usual solution of amber in chloroform. The results obtained by the author are extremely beautiful. He doubts if much better photographs of our satellite can be taken by the process he has pursued. The future of lunar photography lies in another direction; the image must not be received on a sensitive plate, and this copy

submitted to an after process of magnifying. Defects quite imperceptible to the naked eye on the small negatives are expanded into great blotches when magnified. In fact, upwards of a dozen seemingly equally good negatives showed spots when enlarged. The magnifying must be conducted simultaneously with the photographing, either by having the eyepiece on the telescope, or, what would be even better, having a proper arrangement of lenses to throw a magnified image of the moon at once on the collodion. The difficulty of want of light could not be any objection, as, supposing the enlarged image to be equal to those which the author has taken, that would be an increase of area of about 20 times, consequently 20 × 6 seconds, or two minutes, would represent the average time of exposure; a period which, were it even prolonged four or five times, would not be too severe a tax on a steady and skilful hand and eye.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Feb. 6th.—The Hon. Richard C. Neville, Vice-President, in the chair. The Rev. Edward Trollope described a discovery of Anglo-Saxon remains at Kirton, Lincolnshire, on the estates of T. B. Richardson, Esq., of Hibaldstow. On the high ridge which runs through great part of the country, north and south, known as 'the Cliff,' an extensive Saxon cemetery was found during the last year, and nearly sixty cinerary urns of various sizes and ornamentation were brought to light, bearing considerable resemblance to those discovered by Mr. Neville in the cemeteries at Wilbraham and Linton. In one of the urns a pair of bronze tweezers was found, and the bright colour of the metal unfortunately excited an expectation that gold might be extracted from the vessels, which accordingly were thenceforth broken in fragments by the labourers as soon as found. About fifty of these curious vases were thus irreparably destroyed. Within one of them had been deposited a small drinking cup, some thin discs of bronze, and part of a bone comb. Mr. Trollope observed that the comb occurs not infrequently in Saxon sepulchral urns, but never entire, and he felt assured that it was thus deposited intentionally. Possibly the other part was kept by the relatives as a memento of the deceased. Much light will doubtless be thrown on the obscure usages of these early periods through the publication of Mr. Kemble's forthcoming 'Home Færales.' Mr. Trollope produced drawings of the urns and brought for examination an unique gold armlet, found at Cuxwold, Lincolnshire, of the same kind, probably, as the gold corset in the British Museum, found near Mold, Flintshire. It was discovered on the property of Henry Thorold, Esq., and was sent by his permission, as also a very curious dagger, the blade of iron, with bronze hilt and sheath, found in the bed of the Witham, at Fiskerton, near Lincoln. It had been richly ornamented, possibly with enamel, and belongs to the same period as the antiquities found at Stanwick, Yorkshire, presented to the British Museum by the Duke of Northumberland. Mr. Westwood offered some observations on the early sculptured monuments of Scotland, recently illustrated by Mr. Stuart in a valuable work produced by the Spalding Club, and he pointed out the peculiar style of art and symbols occurring on these curious monuments, as compared with the sculptured crosses of Wales, Ireland, and other localities. The carved Scottish stones, which have been accurately delineated by Mr. Stuart's, belong exclusively to a district of which the limits are the river Dee and the Spey. On one only an inscription is found hitherto unexplained; the characters had been conjectured to be Indian, and the occurrence of an animal bearing some resemblance to fan elephant had led to a supposition that some vestiges connected with the East might be traced in these remarkable sculptures. The animal in question Mr. Westwood supposes, however, to be the walrus, and he pointed out certain analogies with Gnostic emblems, occurring amongst the remarkable symbols on these Scottish sculptures. Mr. Way called

attention to the great variety and number of the sculptured slabs of a later period in the Western Highlands, some of them of very elaborate character, as also to the tradition that memorials of that nature had been obtained in considerable numbers in former times from the cemetery at Iona. He instanced the beautiful slabs which exist at Strachur, Argyllshire, closely similar to those still to be seen at Iona, as shown in Mr. Graham's interesting volume on the monumental antiquities of that island. The Hon. R. Neville gave an account of the discovery of some Roman antiquities of very uncommon character at Great Chesterford. They consist of two large vessels formed of the Kimmeridge shale, turned in the lathe, found with Roman pottery; no similar objects of that material have been discovered. With these were two pair of silver bow-shaped brooches, of elegant fashion, each pair being united by a silver chain of very skilful workmanship. The whole of these remarkable reliques have been deposited in Mr. Melville's Museum at Audley End. Mr. Hunter brought, by permission of Mr. Windham Jones, of Nantwich, an interesting relique of Milton, the knife and fork supposed to have been part of the personal effects of the poet, which passed on his death to his widow. She survived him until 1727, and in the inventory of her property several objects occur which had belonged to Milton: amongst these occur a knife and fork, possibly the same which were exhibited, and of which the descent to the present possessor appears distinctly traced and authenticated. Mr. Rogers brought a Cornish Hurling Ball, plated with silver; probably a prize for feats of skill in the ancient Cornish game, which he described as still in vogue. The ball appears, by an inscription upon it, to have been given to the parish of Culval, by Col. Onslow, of Lanisly, probably about 1600. Mr. Franks exhibited an ancient bronze celt, found in a Tartar hut near Kertch, during the late campaign; and the hilt, with part of a sword, of very curious character, probably late Celtic; it was found at Worton, near Lancaster. Mr. Nightingale brought a beautiful bronze vessel of the Saxon period recently found near Wilton, and an enamelled silver ring, found in the same part of Wiltshire; Mr. Octavius Morgan produced two astrolabes of the sixteenth century, and several ornaments of crystal of unknown use. Mr. Burges brought a cast from a beautiful mirror-case, representing the assault of the Castle of Love; and a drawing of an iron hand and arm, in the Museo Correi at Venice. At the next meeting Mr. Burges will give an account of the admirable mediæval reliques preserved in the Treasury at Monza; and Mr. Hewett will offer some observations on ancient armour and weapons in Europe in the fourteenth century, being the sequel to his dissertation on the armour of the earlier periods, a very useful manual produced by Mr. Parker of Oxford, the completion of which in so attractive a form is much to be desired. The Rev. H. Maclean will communicate the recent discovery of Saxon remains in Lincolnshire, supposed to be vestiges of the great conflict between Egbert and Wulf in the ninth century.

ROYAL ASIATIC.—Feb. 7th.—R. Clarke, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair. Major-General Sir Wm. Fenwick Williams; J. S. Law, Esq.; and J. R. Butler, Esq., were elected into the Society. The Secretary read a paper, by Mr. T. S. Burt, proposing some corrections in the reading of an inscription of King Priyadarsi, the monarch better known under the name of Asoka. This inscription was discovered by Mr. Burt in the year 1840; and a transcript, with a translation, was published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal last year. Professor Wilson obtained from Mr. Burt his original facsimile, and brought before the Society his amended version. The chief importance of this inscription is, that it proves beyond dispute that the king at whose instance it was made was a professor of the Buddhist religion. The facsimile, when it came under the notice of Professor Wilson, was somewhat damaged at the end, so that the last two or three words could not be read with certainty. It is to these

words that Mr. Burt's attention has been especially directed. He shows, with considerable ingenuity, that if a slight and very admissible alteration be made in one or two of the mutilated letters in that part, they contain the date of the monument, which in that case would have been erected in the twenty-seventh year of the monarch's reign. The writer adds that the difference of ten years between this date and that of the Magadha Convocation supposed to be alluded to in it (namely, the seventeenth year of the king's reign), rather confirms the reading than otherwise; as an anachronism of ten years is known to exist in the Indian table of accessions to the throne at that early period. The stone bearing the inscription is now in the museum of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and it was determined that a communication should be made to the authorities there, with a view to obtain a good impression. A cast of a very interesting piece of Hindu sculpture was brought to the notice of the meeting, as having been presented to the Society by James Fergusson, Esq., in the name of the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company. Prof. Dowson, Assistant-Secretary, said that all he had been able to learn about this sculpture was that it had been brought from Madras. At the bottom of the stone there is an inscription, which has been somewhat damaged, and he had not been able to make out a connected reading of the whole, but had deciphered sufficient to prove that it was a votive offering to a Buddhist temple, and he thought this was the only point of importance in the inscription. The language is Pali, and the characters in which it is written would show it to have been executed about the third century before the Christian era. The sculpture is divided into five compartments, and in one there are two male and female figures in flowing robes, quite foreign to the Hindu style. The male figure wears a Scythian cap, and carries a long spear. It probably commemorates an alliance of some Hindu Buddhist prince with a Scythian family, and was worthy of note as an instance in which warlike figures and weapons have been sculptured in Buddhist temples, although the leading feature of that religion is the sanctity in which all animal life is held. The meeting passed a special vote of thanks to the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company for this interesting donation.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Jan. 27th.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. Gould exhibited and described three new species of Humming Birds belonging to the genus *Phaethornis*, which he characterized under the following names:—*Phaethornis viridicaudatus*, *Phaethornis episcopus*, and *Phaethornis obscurus*. Mr. P. L. Slater read a paper entitled 'Further Additions to the List of Birds received from Bogota,' which was supplementary to former communications to the Society on the same subject, and contained the names of fifty-two species of birds which the author had lately ascertained to be inhabitants of the interior of New Granada. These, added to the species enumerated in Mr. Slater's previous papers, raise the total number of birds now known to belong to this peculiar ornithology to upwards of five hundred and ten in number. Two of these birds, apparently hitherto undescribed, were characterized under the names *Anabates striatocollis*, and *Sclerurus brunneus*. Mr. Cuming communicated a paper on the true *Nautilus umbilicatus* of Lister, by Dr. A. A. Gould, of Boston, U.S. He states that on looking over the shells of a dealer in Boston, U.S.A., he observed three specimens of an umbilicated Nautilus which struck him as differing essentially from the shell commonly known as *Nautilus umbilicatus*. A more careful examination satisfied him that they were quite distinct, and he made out a comparative description of them, intending to designate the newly observed one by the name *texturatus*, on account of its finely reticulated surface. On the supposition, then, that these are two distinct species, Dr. Gould thinks it proper to restrict the term applied by Lister to the shell represented by him, and to substitute another for the shell ordinarily named *umbilicatus*. The term *Serobiculatus* indicated in manuscript by Solander,

adopted by Dillwyn, placed by others as a synonym, Dr. Gould considered might be appropriately restored to this species. Mr. Fraser exhibited a second specimen of his *Juida Eyttoni*, which he received through the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Hoole, Secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, who informed him it had been received from Macarthy's Island, River Gambia.

NUMISMATIC.—Jan. 22nd.—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair. William Boyne, Esq., and James Morant, Esq., were elected Members of the Society. Mr. Poole read a paper on certain coins usually attributed to Alexander II., King of Epirus. These coins are tetradrachms, bearing on the obverse an idealized portrait of Alexander the Great, with the horn of Jupiter Ammon and an elephant's skin, and on the reverse, Paleus Promachus, with the inscription ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ. M. Pinder, of the Berlin Museum, had considered them to belong to the Egyptian coinage of Alexander Ægus, son of Alexander the Great (Beiträge zur älteren Münzkunde, 1851.) His reasons were, principally, that between the Egyptian coinage of Alexander the Great and the first certain issue of Ptolemy I. is an interval of twenty years, and that during this period Ptolemy must have issued money in the names of Philip Arrhidesus and Alexander Ægus, as whose lieutenant he governed; that the coins of Philip come from Egypt, and do not seem to be found elsewhere; that the tetradrachms under consideration always come from Egypt; that besides these last no coins are known which could be reasonably assigned to Alexander Ægus; that they cannot be attributed to Ptolemy Alexander, as they follow the Attic standard and not the Phœnician, which all the Ptolemaic coins follow; and, lastly, that there is a tetradrachm standing midway between these and Alexander's, having the obverse of the former and the reverse of the latter. This view receives confirmation from an examination of the coins attributed to Alexander II. of Epirus, most nearly connected in type with the tetradrachms in question, which are closely related to the coinage of Alexander the Great's successors, especially the Ptolemies and Lysimachus. In like manner certain of the copper coins usually ascribed to the Epirote Ptolemy, the successor of Alexander II., are remarkably similar to those of the Egyptian sovereigns. Those of one type in particular can only be distinguished from that of the copper coins assigned to Ptolemy Alexander by the difference of age and fabric. These coins might be most probably considered as the earliest coinage of the first Ptolemy immediately following those transferred to Alexander Ægus.

R. S. OF LITERATURE.—Feb. 4th.—The Lord Bishop of St. David's, President, in the chair. The Rev. J. J. Peronne and the Rev. F. H. Dale were elected Members. H.R.H. the reigning Grand-Duke of Oldenburg, and Gennaro Riccio, Giudice of Naples, were elected Honorary Members. Mr. Vaux read an account of three Coptic manuscripts, lately deciphered by C. W. Goodwin, Esq., containing notices in the Sahidic dialect of the martyrdom of Justus, of his wife Stephanon, and his daughter Sophia, in the time of Diocletian; and of the martyrdom of Chamoul, in the Thebaid, during the same period, both of which are now in the British Museum; together with a memoir of a deed of gift and of the dedication of a child to the service of the Monastery of St. Phœbamon. There is great doubt as to the period when these documents were written, but, though imperfect, they are, like all Coptic manuscripts, of great rarity. Mr. Vaux read a memoir he had drawn of the progress of Assyrian discovery during the last year, in which he pointed out the success which had attended the printing of the cuneiform historical documents under the superintendence of Sir Henry Rawlinson, and the remarkable coincidence in the determination of the meaning of the most important records, as evidenced by the translations lately published by Mr. Fox Talbot.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—Jan. 23th.—T. J. Pettigrew, V.P., in the chair. Messrs. Rodwell, Stor, Forman, and Buxton were elected Associates. Mr. Gunston exhibited a collection of spurs, two of which had been found in the Thames, belonging to the 14th and 15th centuries. Another, roweled, dug up at Barnet; a gilt brass spur, decorated with a chevron pattern, from Dublin, and one from Athlone, richly chased, together with some ancient horse furniture; Mr. Willis presented some Somersetshire tokens; Mr. Moore of Yeovil, a drawing of a fine canopy, of the early part of the 15th century, rescued by him from destruction in Brympton d'Evercy churchyard. It had probably surmounted the tomb of a lady with a horned head-dress, near the spot where it was found. In one of the spandrels is a curious representation of the Adoration of the Magi, in the other the Annunciation. It will be engraved. Mr. Syer Cuming read a paper 'On some Anglo-Saxon Arms found in the Thames,' and exhibited various specimens from his own collection, and a very fine example belonging to Mr. Corner. Mr. C. E. Davies communicated a paper 'On the Bishop's Palace at Wells,' developing its original construction, and marking the several periods of its erection. It would be unintelligible without a plan. Mr. Corner exhibited three interesting deeds relating to property held by the Ashmole family at Lambeth, bearing the autograph of Elias Ashmole. Mr. Cuming laid before the meeting a fine example of an embroidered cap of the 17th century, and traced their employment from a very early period, as exhibited on the vases of Etruria. The subject was ably treated, and many interesting anecdotes related. Mr. Cuming also exhibited a pack of playing cards, not printed but limned, portraying various characters and illustrations of all kinds of costume. The knave of hearts is given by the representation of a quaker; the nine of diamonds by a Highlander with his claymore stuck through the card; a Jew pedlar, the old maid's arms, the learned pig, Dollalolla, a gipsy, a gamester, &c., form other subjects.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Feb. 9th.—Sir Roderick I. Murchison, President, in the chair. Lieutenant Wm. Chimmo, R.N.; Dr. Dobie, R.N.; Henry S. Keating, Esq., Q.C., M.P.; Capt. Yule; and J. M. Airey, J. B. Brasted, Dalton F. G. Dalton, John Gilchrist, and John Stuart Glennie, Esqrs., were elected Fellows. A marble bust of the late G. B. Greenough, Esq., past President of the Society, as ordered by the Council, was exhibited at the meeting. The papers read were:—1. 'Notes on the Route from Bushire to Shiraz.' By Lieutenant-General W. Monteith, F.R.G.S. General Monteith thought the passes between the two places to be less formidable than generally believed. He had repeatedly traversed and examined them. No doubt there were many and serious difficulties to be met with in the shape of deficiency in quantity, and indifference in quality, of the water in many places, the difficulty in crossing the ravines, and such like obstacles; but he thought that in neither of the two great passes were there insurmountable obstacles to conveying an army along them. There were a number of tribes in the various districts along these passes, but he believed upon the whole they were rather friendly inclined than otherwise. The great force of the province of Fars consisted of the ancient Persian tribes, but the assembling of them by the Government would be attended with considerable danger, as it would be uncertain which side they would take. There was great weakness and disaffection in all but the few tribes immediately about the king. 2. 'Observations on the Geography of Southern Persia, with reference to the pending Military Operations.' By Colonel Sir Henry Rawlinson. By a curious accident the place where the English troops came into collision with the Persians was the most interesting, in an historical and antiquarian sense, of any in the country, and had formerly been the chief place along the coast of the Persian Gulf; and the fort at Bushire was said to be built by, or was called

the "Fort of Nebuchadnezzar." The Persian Gulf, from the earliest times, had always been the great route of communication between India and Europe, and the author proceeded to explain the situation of the different great commercial emporia from the most ancient up to the present times. The coasts of the Persian Gulf contained a belt of low land throughout, with mountains at a short distance, varying from ten to thirty miles. At Bushire it was about twenty-five miles. Having been a good deal in Persia, he was satisfied that they might take guns anywhere, so long as they were not opposed; by putting a regiment on to a gun, they might take it on through the passes; but the roads in Persia he knew were extremely bad. At the same time, he should say that it was quite impossible to force the passes alluded to by General Monteith in the face of an enemy. Should Government be determined to act with effect in Persia, quite another route must be taken. The army must, in fact, land higher up the Gulf, at Mohammerah, and proceed to Shuster. Sir Henry Rawlinson then gave a general description of the passes, and of the water-line along the coast, and, with regard to the inhabitants, confirming the statement of General Monteith, that the native tribes in the mountains were amicably disposed towards this country, and were anxious to enter into friendly relations with us. Some of those tribes could bring a force of 4,000 or 5,000 men into the field. With regard to the position of Herat, upon which some doubt had been thrown of late, Colonel Rawlinson said that it had been well ascertained by Colonel Saunders, and was long ago correctly laid down in our best maps, such as Walker's map of the north-west frontier of India, Arrowsmith's, &c.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 21st.—Colonel Portlock, R.E., President, in the chair. Mr. C. Greaves, Mr. G. A. Ibbotson, and Mr. C. F. A. Courtney, were elected Fellows; and M. E. Lartet was elected a Foreign Member. The following communications were read:—1. 'On some Fossiliferous Ironstone occurring on the North Downs.' By Mr. Joseph Prestwich, F.R.S. Besides a drift of red loam with flints, and the few local outliers of lower tertiary sands and pebble-beds, there are scattered on the summit of the North Downs from Folkestone to Dorking a few masses of sand, gravel, and ironstone, which present a certain regularity of structure and uniformity among themselves, and are clearly different from and of a later age than the outliers of eocene tertiaries on the same hills. This fossiliferous ironstone on close examination yielded casts of bivalve and univalve shells belonging to nearly thirty genera, besides indications of *Lunulites*, *Diadema*, &c. The presence of a *Terebratulites* very like *T. grandis*, with several species of *Astarte*, and afterwards his finding a large *Mya*-shaped shell, led Mr. Prestwich to conclude that these sandy beds belonged to the Lower Crag. Mr. Searles Wood, to whom the fossils have been submitted, states that, as far as the evidence goes, he thinks they may with some probability be referred to the Lower Crag period; the occurrence of a *Pyrula* more especially strengthening this view. Mr. Prestwich assigns without any doubt this shelly ironstone to the ferruginous sands above referred to, and points to the peculiar concentric arrangement of the contents of the sandpipes of the locality in question, as definitely indicating in accordance with the observations he formerly published in the Society's Journal the former existence of horizontal strata of—1, (lowermost) loam with flints; 2, greenish sands with ironstone nodules; 3, yellow and reddish sands, superposed on the bare chalk, after the eocene beds were for the most part denuded, and before the sandpipes were formed, into which these overlying beds were here and there let down, and thereby preserved when further denuding agencies removed the later tertiary beds. 2. 'Notice of the Occurrence of a Malacostracous Crustacean, and of a new *Chiton* in the Magnesian Limestone of Durham; with Remarks on some other Permian Fossils.' By Mr. J. W.

Kirkby. The author has in the course of the last three years met with six imperfect specimens of a minute Crustacean, characterized by two large caudal rings, about nine or ten narrow body rings, and a large cephalic carapace with two prominent hemispherical eyespots, placed far forwards. This animal appears to be the same as that named *Trilobites problematicus* by Schlotheim, and *Palaeocrangon problematicus* by Schuchroth. It is not, however, related either to the Trilobites or the Crangons; but is pronounced by Mr. C. S. Bates to be probably Isopodous in its relations; and more nearly representing the immature than the mature form of recent Isopods. The other fossils described or noticed in this paper are the *Chemnitzia Roessleri*, *Chiton Houssianus*, *Lima Permiana*, and *Hippothoa Voigtiana*.

ANTIQUARIES.—Feb. 5th.—The Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair. A letter from Mr. John Evans, addressed to the Secretary, was read, announcing a donation by Mr. Molyneux, of Loseley, of a valuable collection of proclamations and broadsides, ranging from the reign of Edward the Sixth to that of Charles the Second. The Hon. Frederic Lygon was elected a Fellow. The Rev. Lambert B. Larking, Local Secretary for Kent, exhibited a stone vessel with Norman sculptures, found at Mereworth, on the estate of Viscount Falmouth. It appears to have been formed out of the capital of a shaft, or cluster of shafts, in some building of the 12th century. Mr. J. H. Parker read remarks on choirs and chancels in England, by way of pendant to the communication of Mr. Asphitel read at a recent meeting.

CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Feb. 10th.—Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., Vice-President, in the chair. A discussion on Mr. W. B. Adams' paper, 'On the Varieties of Permanent Way practically used on Railways up to the present time,' and on Mr. Parsons' paper, 'On some recent Improvements in the Permanent Way of Railways,' occupied the entire evening; and was not concluded.

Feb. 10th and 17th.—Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., Vice-President, in the chair. The discussion upon Mr. W. Bridges Adams' paper, 'On Varieties of Permanent Way,' and upon Mr. P. M. Parsons' paper, 'On some Recent Improvements in Permanent Way,' occupied both evenings.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Feb. 11th.—Thos. Webster, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. The paper read was 'On the Application of Rails for Horse Traffic in the Streets and Environs of London, and also for Railway Branches,' by Mr. W. Bridges Adams. Feb. 18th.—Wm. Grove, Esq., Q.C., F.R.S., in the chair. The paper read was 'On a powerful modification of the Induction Coil, and some new Electrical Phenomena developed by it,' by Mr. J. N. Hearder.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Royal Academy, 8 p.m.—(Sydney Smirke, Esq., A.R.A. on Architecture.)
Royal Geographical.—(1. On the Geography of the Sea of Azov, the Putoria Sea, and adjacent Coasts; with Remarks on their Commercial Future. By Capt. Sherard Osborn, R.N., C.B., F.R.G.S. 2. Proposed Canal in Asia Minor, between the Lake of Sabaia, the River Sakaria, and the Gulf of Nicomedia. By General Jochinus. Communicated by Sir Roderick I. Murchison. 3. Expedition up the Nile under M. le Comte d'Eschyrac Lauriere.)
Institute of Actuaries. 7 p.m.—(On the Origin of Insurance. By H. G. Smith, Esq.)
British Architects. 8 p.m.
Tuesday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Huxley on the Sense of Vision.)
Medical and Chirurgical. 8 p.m.
Zoological. 8 p.m.
Civil Engineers. 8 p.m.—(Mr. T. Dunn on Chain Cable and Timber Testing Machines.)
Wednesday.—Geological.—(1. Professor Owen on the Dicheobone Ostrum from the Lake of Wight. 2. Professor Ansted on the Copper Veins of Tennessee, U.S.)
Society of Arts. 8 p.m.—(Mr. Alexander Redgrave on the Factory or Half-time System of Education, and its General Application.)
British Archaeological. 8 p.m.—(Mr. Pettigrew on the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge in relation to Antiquities and Archaeological Research in America.)
Thursday.—Royal, 8 p.m.
Royal Society Club. 8 p.m.
Royal Institution. 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Sound.)
Antiquaries. 8 p.m.
Royal Academy. 8 p.m.—(S. A. Hart, Esq., on Painting.)
Museum of Geology. 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen. Introductory Lecture on the Osteology and Palaeontology of the Mammalia.)

Friday.—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Professor Yarwood on the Conservation of Forests.)
Museum of Geology. 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen on the British Known Forms of Mammalia.)
Saturday.—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Phillips on the Origin and Progress of Life on the Globe.—Varieties.)
Medical. 7 p.m.—(Annual Election.)

VARIETIES.

Ragged Schools.—On the invitation of the Lord Mayor, a public meeting was held this week on behalf of the London Ragged School Union. The Lord Mayor made an earnest appeal for public support to these schools as the best auxiliaries for the prevention of crime, and as affording instruction to a class of children not reached by other educational institutions. Resolutions were proposed by Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. R. L. Bevan, Sir R. W. Carden, and others who have taken interest in this field of benevolent labour. Whatever may be the ultimate measures adopted by the Government for increasing facilities of education among the poor, there are at present immediate calls, and there will always be ample scope for zeal and liberality in the support of these schools, which have already, at a comparatively small cost, effected an immense amount of social and educational good. The outlay during the past three years having exceeded the income, subscriptions are invited, that the operations of the schools may not be curtailed.

Illuminated Clocks.—These clocks, which are now becoming more general, and are found to be most useful, have hitherto had this great disadvantage, viz., that the dials are not sufficiently distinct during the daylight. This inconvenience may now be obviated. Sir Benjamin Hall has recently had an experiment made on the face of the clock on the north side of the lodge at Hyde-park-corner, in front of Rotten-row. The figures and hands are painted a dark colour, and the face is made of glass which is as white as a sheet of paper, and perfectly transparent. The clock has been lighted for three or four nights, and the time is indicated most distinctly. The experiment is thought so successful that the other face of the clock opposite Grosvenor-place is now undergoing alteration; and it is to be hoped that the owners of other clocks may be induced to adopt the improvement. It is understood that the dial of the great clock of the new Palace of Westminster is to be made of a similar description of glass, so as to be quite clear both by day and night.—*The Builder.*

Brown Bread.—The 'Comptes Rendus' of the Academy of Sciences of Paris contains a very long paper, which is of some scientific and of more practical interest, on the art of making bread. It appears that the bran of ground wheat contains an active principle or ferment, which has hitherto not been rightly understood by chemists, and to which the name of *cérealine* has now been given. This ferment can, we are told by the paper before us, be neutralized by the application of glucose employed in a particular way; and being neutralized, the greater part of the bran becomes transformed into good flour. In other words, what in France is called bread of the second quality, which the common people are obliged to eat on account of its cheapness (though they do so with a certain degree of repugnance), can be done away with, and bread equal to that of the first quality, which is consumed by the better classes, can without increase of expense be substituted for it. Thus the new system seems to be of great utility; and it is desirable that our bakers should inquire into it. The bread produced is represented to be very palatable and wholesome. In the course of the experiments which the new plan necessitated, a curious chemical fact was discovered, namely, that the dark colour of bread of the second quality is not caused, as has always been supposed, by the presence of bran in the flour, but by a peculiar fermentation of the flour. The discoverer of the improved system is M. Mège-Mouries.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—W. W. F.; E. Y.; A Graduate of the Queen's University; G. A.; A Constant Reader; T. E. received.

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BONUS TABLE,

Showing the additions made to Policies of 1000l. each.

Date of Insurance.	Amount of Additions to Feb. 1, 1851.	Addition made as on Feb. 1, 1856.	Sum Payable after Death.
1850 . . .	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1850 . . .	523 14 0	114 5 0	1638 19 0
1851 . . .	582 14 0	103 14 0	1486 8 0
1852 . . .	241 12 0	93 2 0	1334 14 0
1853 . . .	185 3 0	88 17 0	1274 0 0
1854 . . .	128 15 0	84 13 0	1213 8 0
1855 . . .	65 18 0	79 18 0	1145 13 0
1856 . . .	10 0 0	75 15 0	1085 15 0
1857 . . .	—	15 0 0	1015 0 0

And for intermediate years in proportion.

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20	1 13 10	1 19 3	50	4 0 9	4 10 7
30	2 4 0	2 10 4	60	5 1 0	6 7 4

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